

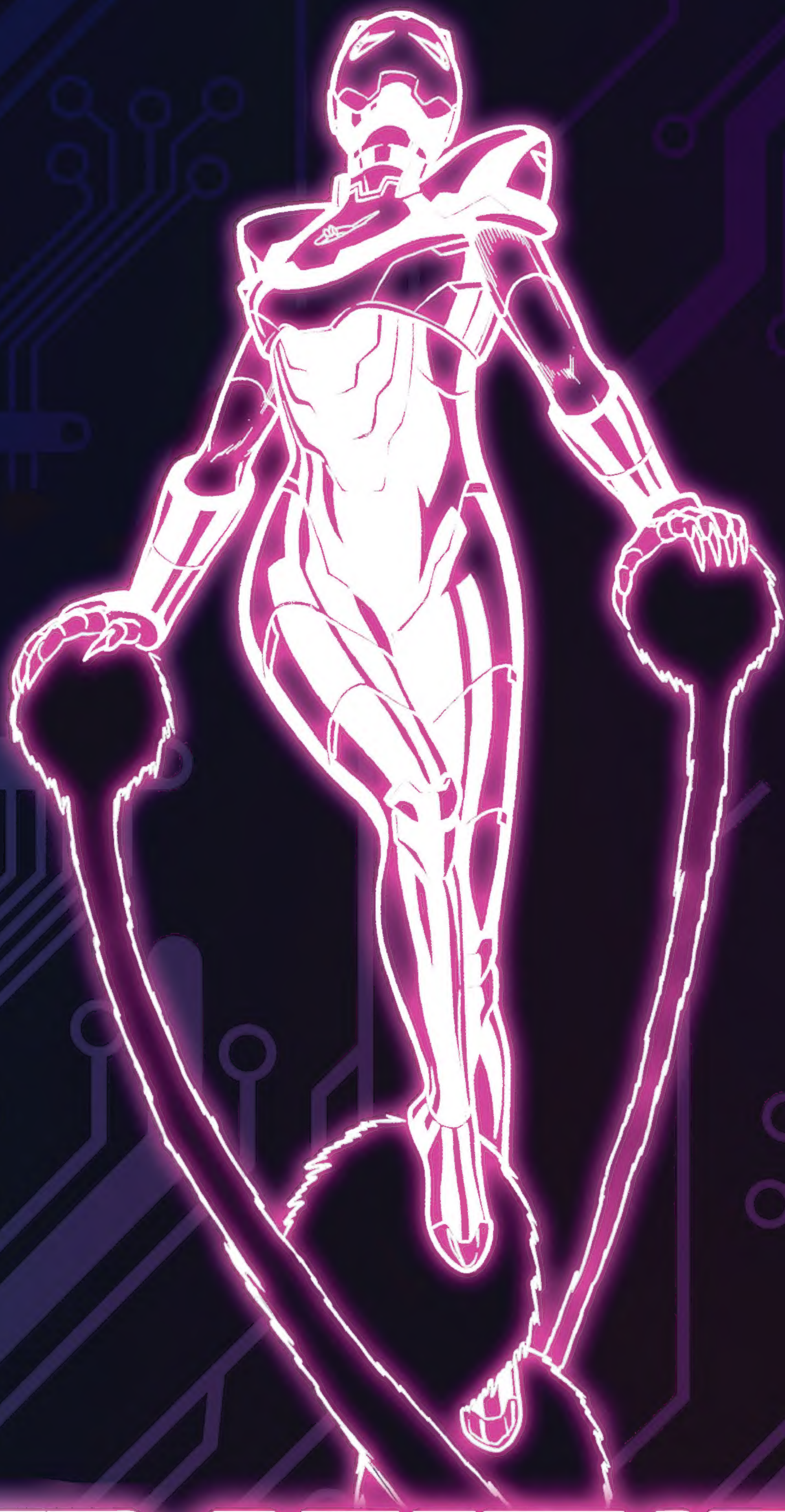
IRON CAT

"Pure fun."

— Comic Book Revolution

MAC KAY
PÉREZ
D'ARMATA

MARVEL



IRONCAT



**JED
MACKAY**
WRITER

**PERE
PÉREZ**
PENCILER

**PERE
PÉREZ** (#1-2, #4-5)
& **JORDI
TARRAGONA
GARCIA** (#3)
INKERS

FRANK D'ARMATA
COLOR ARTIST

**PERE PÉREZ
& FRANK D'ARMATA**
COVER ART

VC's **ARIANA MAHER**
LETTERER

LINDSEY COHICK
ASSISTANT EDITOR

TOM GRONEMAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**DEVIN LEWIS
& NICK LOWE**
EDITORS

DANIEL KIRCHHOFFER • COLLECTION EDITOR
MAIA LOY • ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR
LISA MONTALBANO • ASSOCIATE MANAGER, TALENT RELATIONS
JENNIFER GRÜNWALD • DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION & SPECIAL PROJECTS

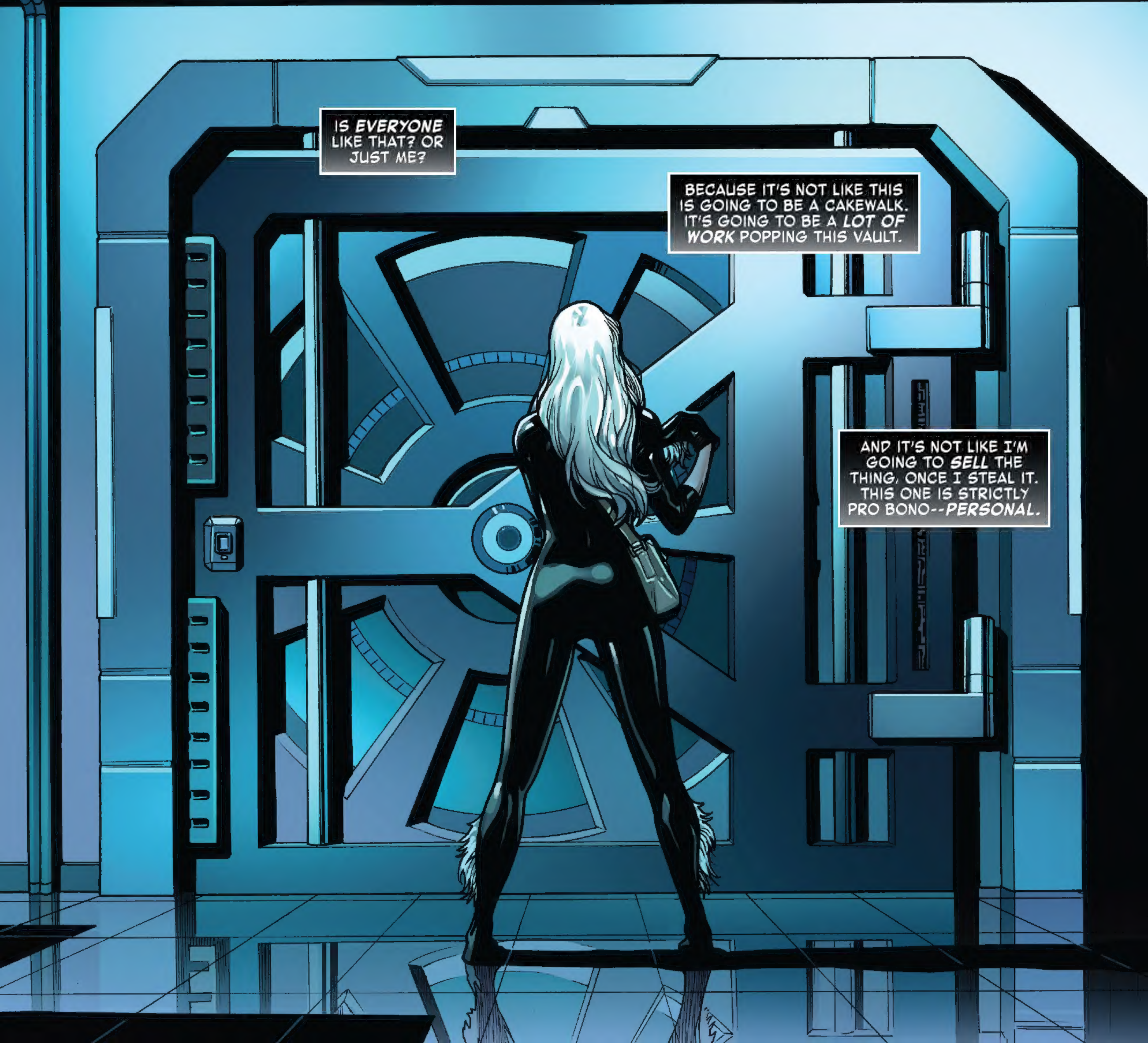
JEFF YOUNGQUIST • VP PRODUCTION & SPECIAL PROJECTS
SARAH SPADACCINI WITH CARLOS LAO • BOOK DESIGNERS
JAY BOWEN • SENIOR DESIGNER
DAVID GABRIEL • SVP PRINT, SALES & MARKETING
TIM SMITH 3 • SR. MANAGER, DIGITAL
JASMINE ALVAREZ & RACHEL YOUNG • DIGITAL PRODUCTION
C.B. CEBULSKI • EDITOR IN CHIEF





SOMETIMES I SURPRISE MYSELF WITH HOW FAR I'LL GO FOR A MEMORY.

FELICIA HARDY.
THE BLACK CAT.
NEW YORK CITY'S
SUPER-CRIME IT GIRL.



IS EVERYONE LIKE THAT? OR JUST ME?

BECAUSE IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS GOING TO BE A CAKEWALK. IT'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF WORK POPPING THIS VAULT.

AND IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING TO *SELL* THE THING, ONCE I STEAL IT. THIS ONE IS STRICTLY PRO BONO--PERSONAL.



THE GAVRILOV
DIAMOND.

EXCEPT IT'S NOT
REALLY A DIAMOND.
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT
IT IS, EXACTLY.



THEY SAY THAT
IT CAME FROM
ANOTHER WORLD.

THAT IT FELL OUT OF
THE DEVIL'S OWN
TREASURE HOARD.

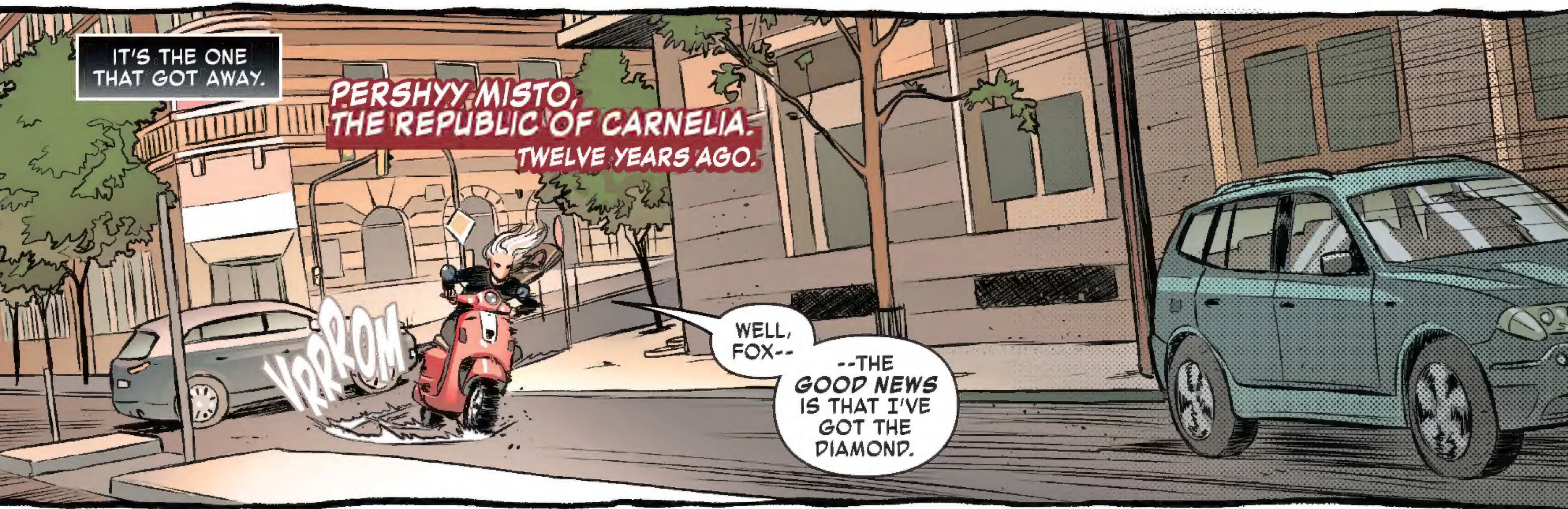
THAT IT'S ALIVE, THAT
YOU CAN SEE YOUR OWN
DEATH IN ITS FACETS,
THAT IT WHISPERS TO
PEOPLE AT NIGHT...



YOU KNOW,
THE USUAL
BUNK.

FOR ME
THOUGH?

CLK CLK CLK



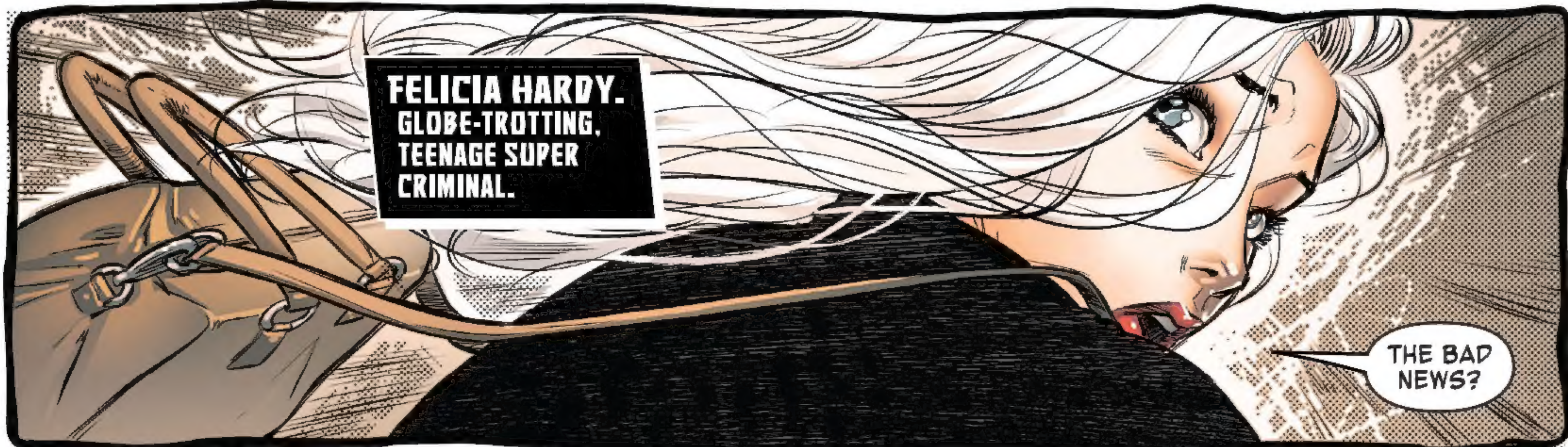
IT'S THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY.

PERSHY MISTO,
THE REPUBLIC OF CARNELIA.
TWELVE YEARS AGO.

WELL,
FOX--

--THE
GOOD NEWS
IS THAT I'VE
GOT THE
DIAMOND.

VORRON
VORRON



FELICIA HARDY.
GLOBE-TROTTERING,
TEENAGE SUPER
CRIMINAL.

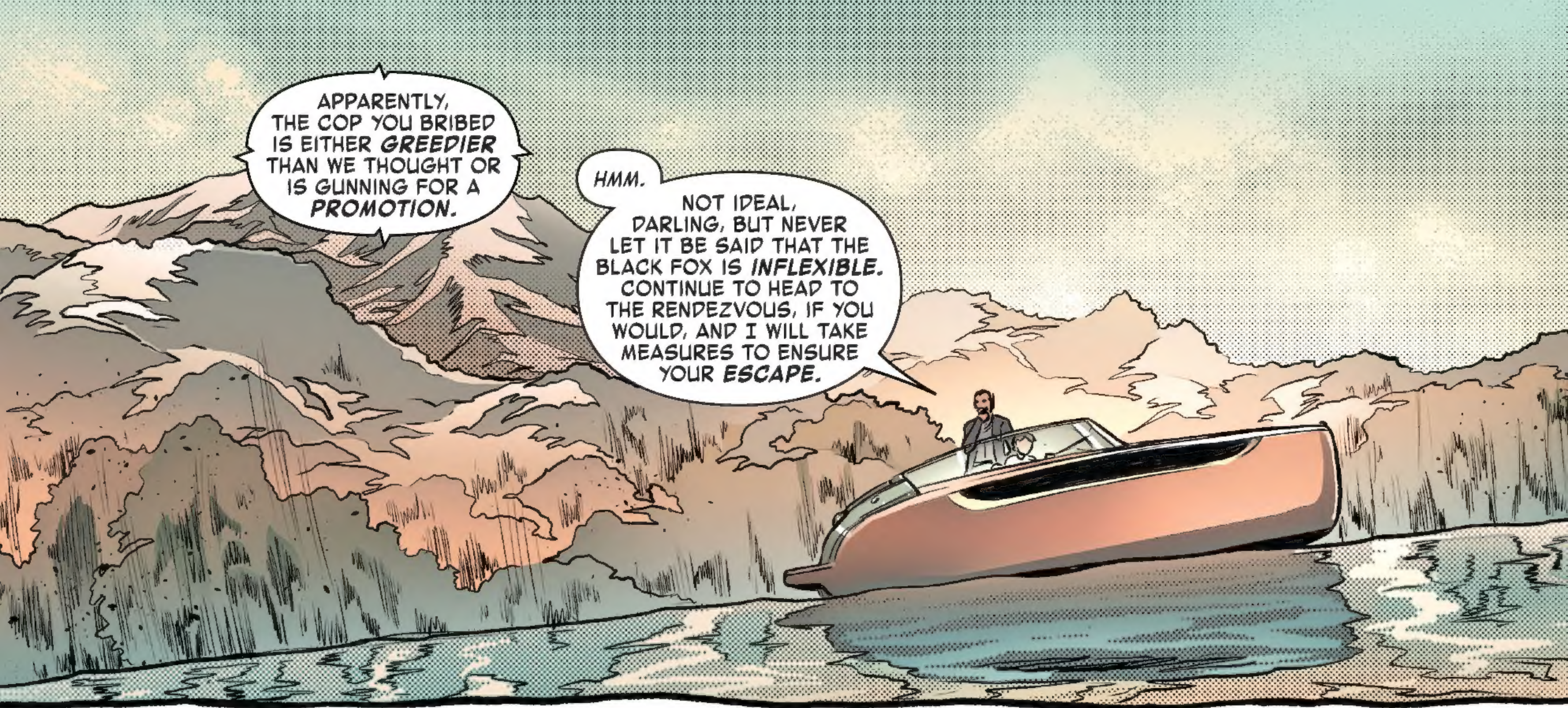
THE BAD
NEWS?



ERR,
YEAH.

I DIDN'T
EXACTLY GET
OUT CLEAN.

WUWAH
WUWAH
WUWAH



APPARENTLY, THE COP YOU BRIBED IS EITHER *GREEDIER* THAN WE THOUGHT OR IS GUNNING FOR A *PROMOTION*.

HMM.

NOT IDEAL, DARLING, BUT NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT THE BLACK FOX IS *INFLEXIBLE*. CONTINUE TO HEAD TO THE RENDEZVOUS, IF YOU WOULD, AND I WILL TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE YOUR *ESCAPE*.

THE BLACK FOX.
#3 ON INTERPOL'S MOST WANTED LIST (AND RISING). CURRENTLY TRAINING THE BEST OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF CRIMINAL YOUTH.

IS FELICIA OKAY, FOX?

TAMARA BLAKE.
ALSO A GLOBE-TROTTING, TEENAGE SUPER CRIMINAL.



OH, SHE WILL BE FINE. WORRY NOT, DARLING.

THE BLACK FOX ALWAYS HAS A PLAN.

OH YEAH? WHAT'S COOKING?

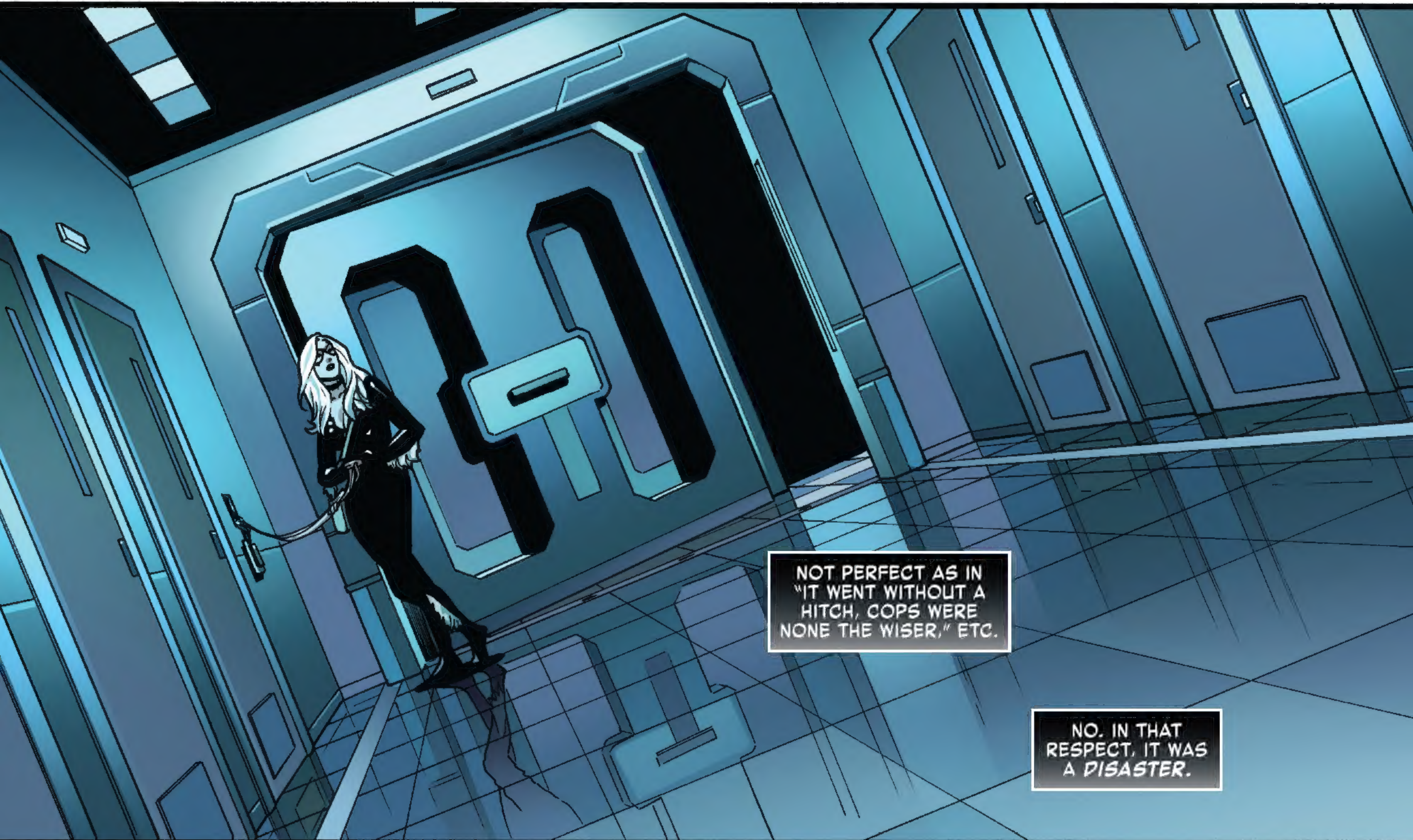


LAWS HAVE BEEN *BROKEN*, MY DEAR. CRIMES COMMITTED.

I AM GOING TO CALL THE POLICE.

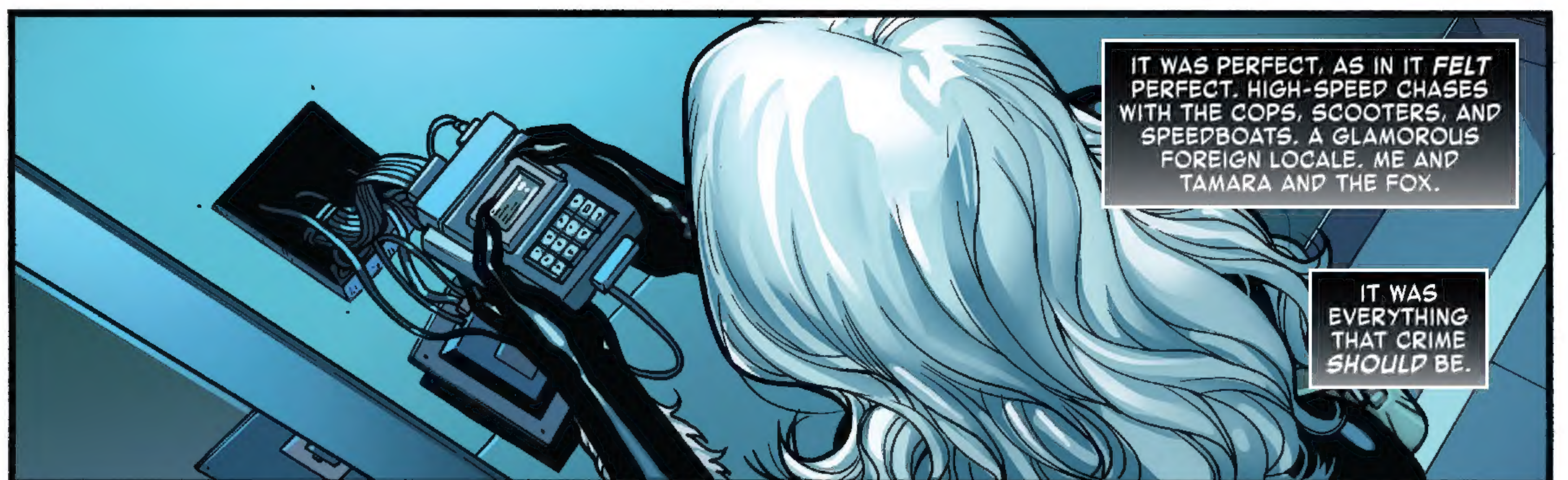


IT WAS THE
PERFECT CRIME.



NOT PERFECT AS IN
"IT WENT WITHOUT A
HITCH, COPS WERE
NONE THE WISER," ETC.

NO. IN THAT
RESPECT, IT WAS
A *DISASTER*.



IT WAS PERFECT, AS IN IT *FELT*
PERFECT. HIGH-SPEED CHASES
WITH THE COPS, SCOOTERS, AND
SPEEDBOATS. A GLAMOROUS
FOREIGN LOCALE. ME AND
TAMARA AND THE FOX.

IT WAS
EVERYTHING
THAT CRIME
SHOULD BE.



THE WAY IT FEELS WHEN
YOU'RE A KID, WHEN YOU'RE
RIPPING AND RUNNING WITH
SOME OF THE PEOPLE YOU
LOVE MOST IN THE WORLD.

TWELVE YEARS
LATER, LESS
THAN A YEAR AGO,
I BETRAYED
THE FOX.



IT WAS...

IT WASN'T MY FINEST MOMENT.



BUT I HAD THE BEST INTENTIONS.

THE FOX WAS DYING. HE WAS ABOUT TO TRADE ALL OF MANHATTAN TO AN ALIEN GOD IN RETURN FOR IMMORTALITY, AND HE TRICKED ME INTO HELPING HIM.

I SAVED MANHATTAN. I LOST THE FOX.



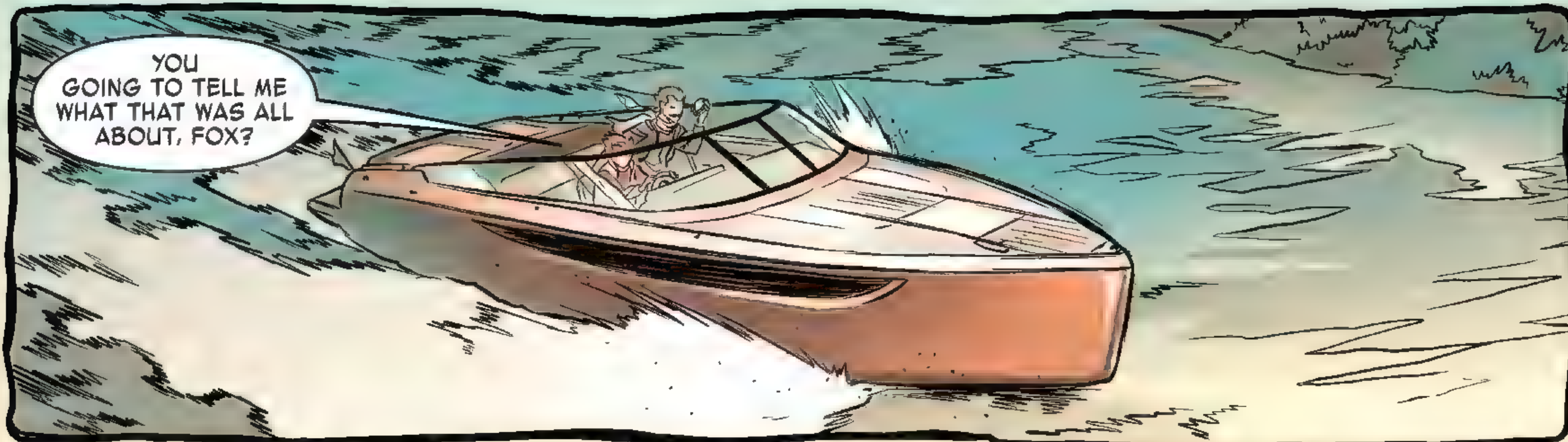
I LOVED THE FOX, AND I ONLY *KIND OF* LIKE MANHATTAN, SO IT WASN'T SOMETHING THAT LEFT ME FEELING GREAT.



THE BLACK FOX MADE ME INTO THE BLACK CAT.

AND I HAMMERED THE NAILS INTO HIS COFFIN.

OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE.



YOU
GOING TO TELL ME
WHAT THAT WAS ALL
ABOUT, FOX?

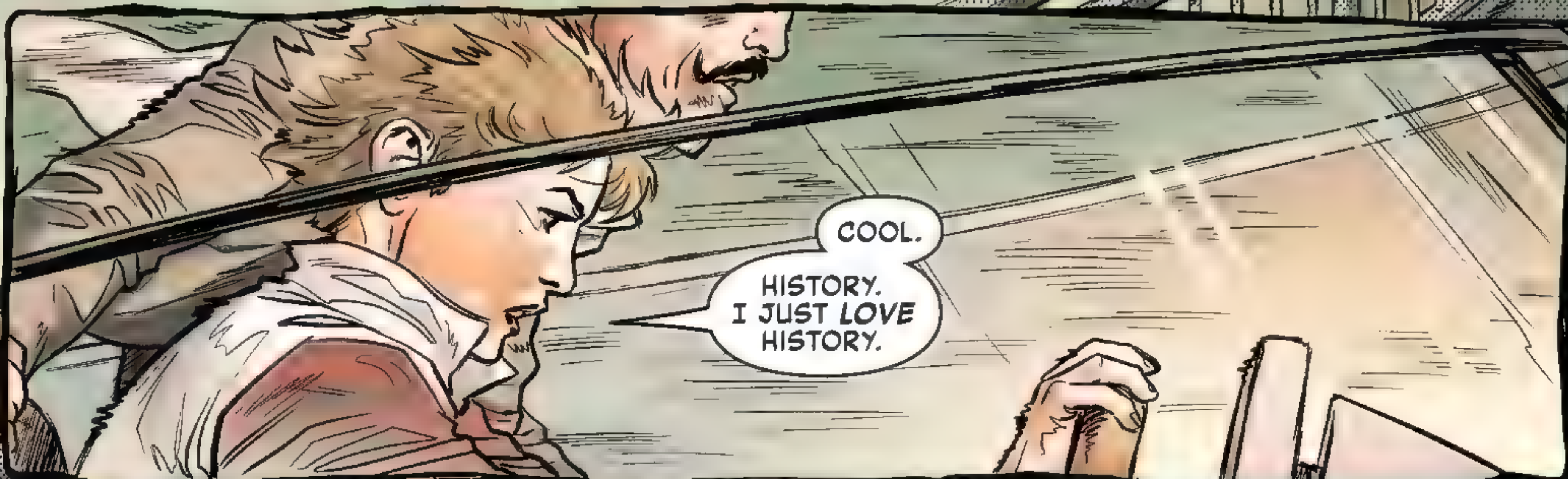


TCH.

MY DEAR,
WHY DO I BOTHER
TO PUT THESE MISSION
BRIEFS TOGETHER WHEN
NEITHER YOU NOR
FELICIA EVER READS
THEM?

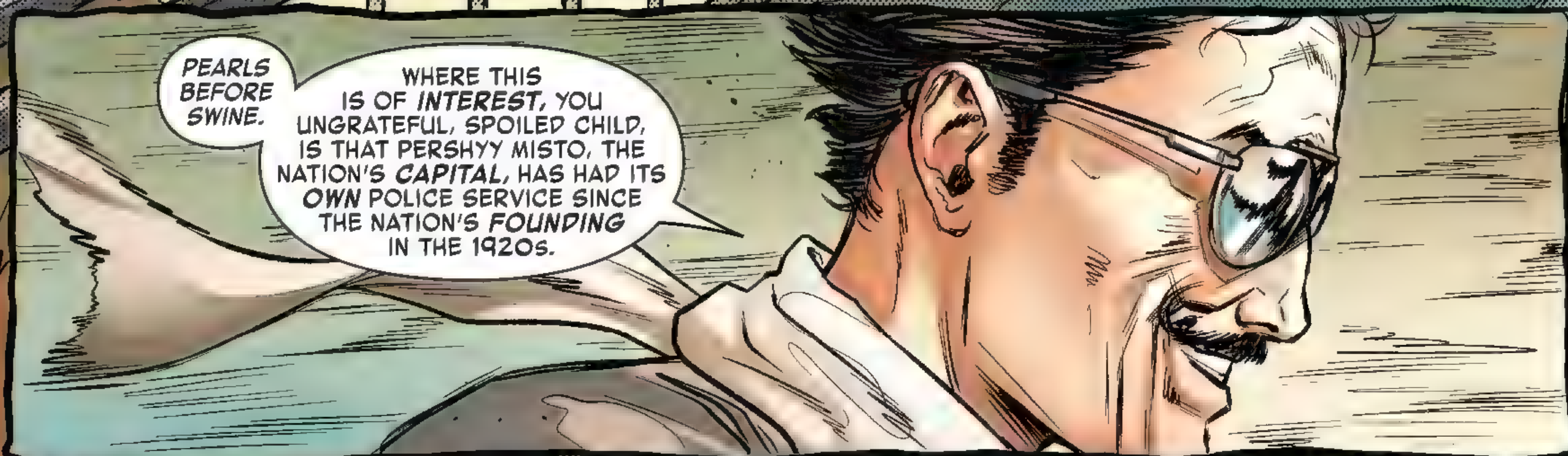
CARNELIA WAS
A SATELLITE STATE OF
THE USSR. THAT, OF COURSE,
ENDED ONCE THE SOVIET UNION
DISSOLVED AND THEY BECAME AN
INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC
NATION.

AS PART OF THAT
REFORM, THE NEW CARNELIAN
GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED A
NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE,
WHICH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR LAW, ORDER, AND ALL
OTHER SUCH DREARY
PURSUITS.



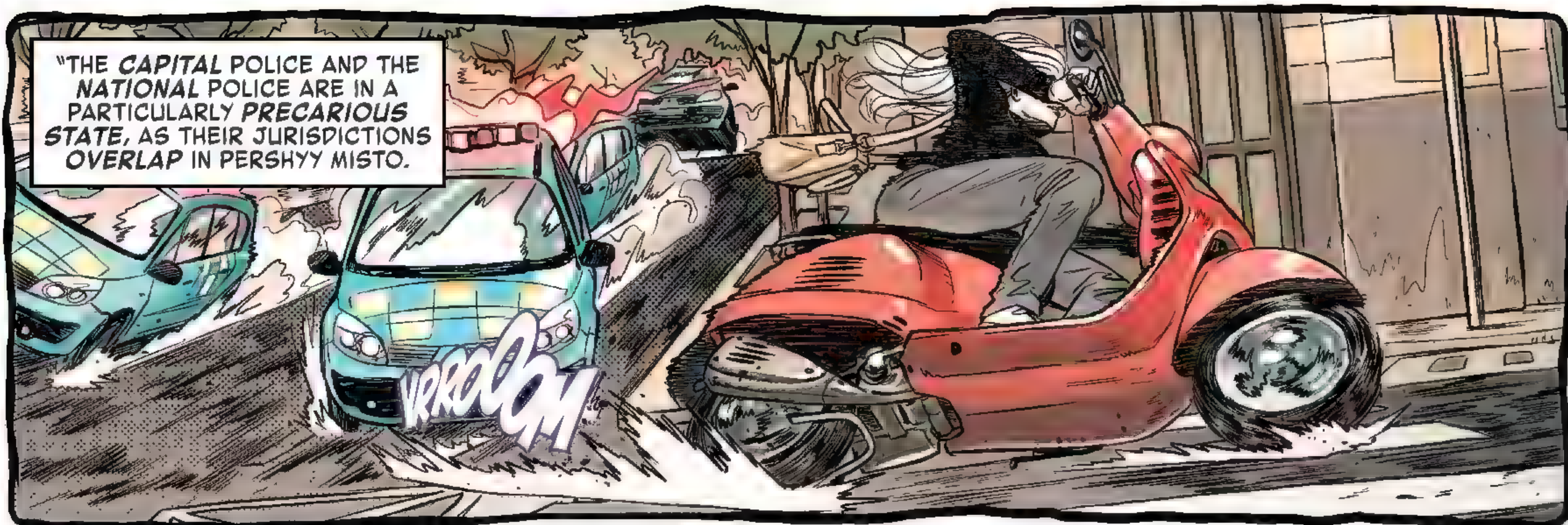
COOL.

HISTORY.
I JUST LOVE
HISTORY.



PEARLS
BEFORE
SWINE.

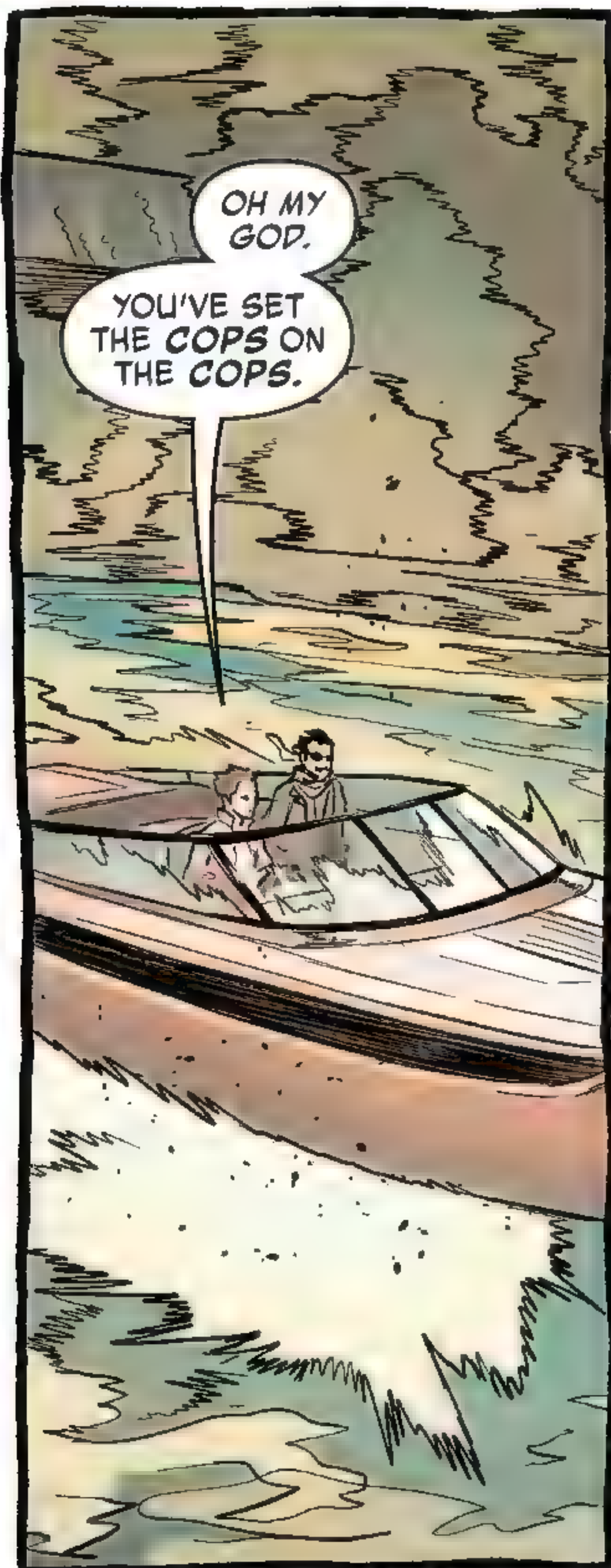
WHERE THIS
IS OF INTEREST, YOU
UNGRATEFUL, SPOILED CHILD,
IS THAT PERSHYY MISTO, THE
NATION'S CAPITAL, HAS HAD ITS
OWN POLICE SERVICE SINCE
THE NATION'S FOUNDED
IN THE 1920s.



"THE CAPITAL POLICE AND THE NATIONAL POLICE ARE IN A PARTICULARLY PRECARIOUS STATE, AS THEIR JURISDICTIONS OVERLAP IN PERSHYY MISTO."



"OH, AND THEY HATE EACH OTHER."



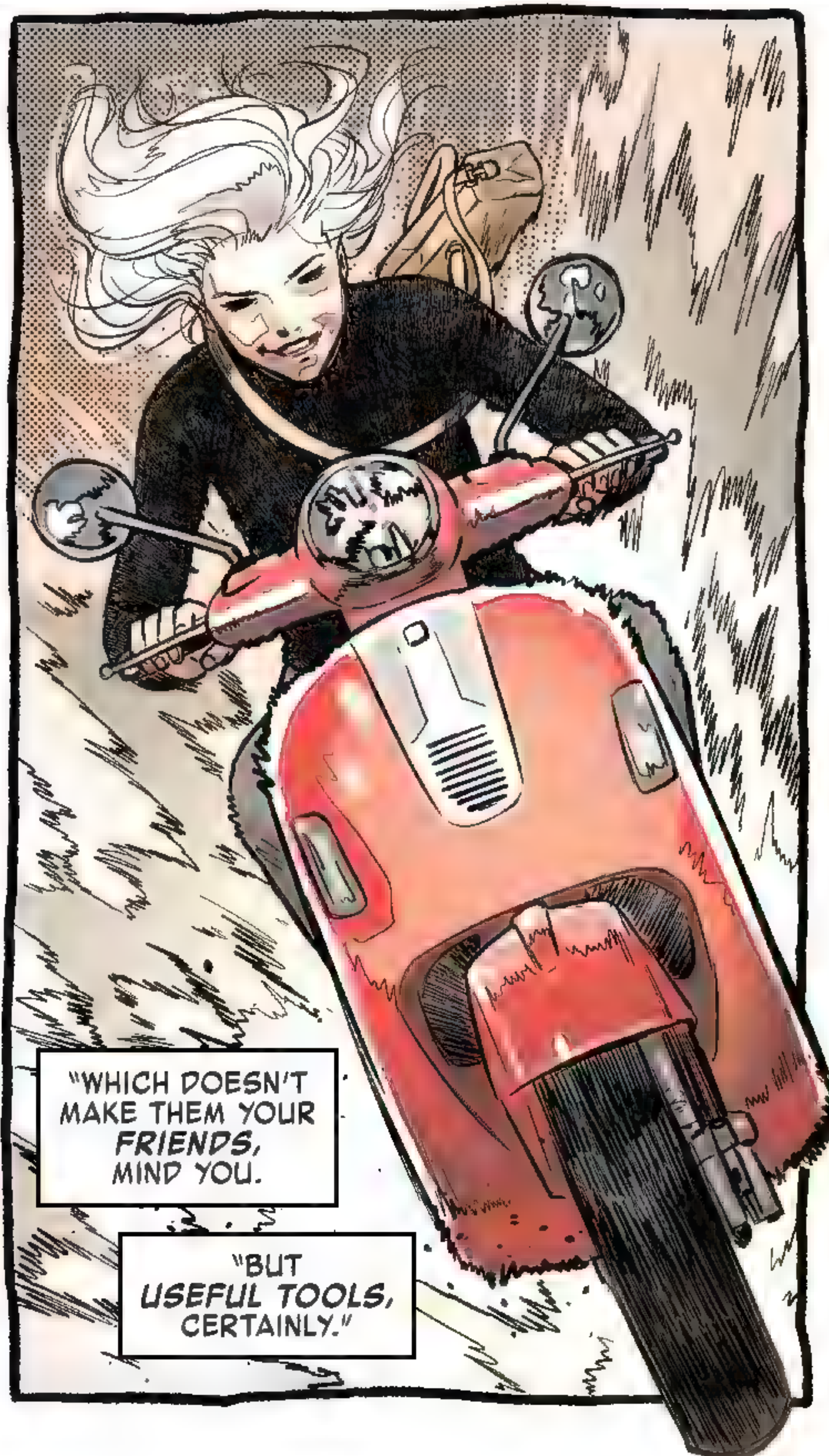
"OH MY GOD."

"YOU'VE SET THE COPS ON THE COPS."



"TAKE NOTE, DARLING."

"EVEN YOUR ENEMIES HAVE ENEMIES."



"WHICH DOESN'T MAKE THEM YOUR FRIENDS, MIND YOU."

"BUT USEFUL TOOLS, CERTAINLY."



MAYBE THAT'S
WHAT THIS IS
ALL ABOUT.

MAYBE IT'S FOR THE FOX.
FINALLY FINISHING THE
GAVRILOV DIAMOND JOB
ALL THESE YEARS LATER.



I GUESS
THEY CALL THIS
CLOSURE.

OH, IT'S
THE LAST TIME
OH, IT'S THE
LAST TIME



WHAT
THE--?

OH,
IT'S THE
LAST-EST
TIME

HELLO?

I WANT IT
BACK, FELICIA.
DO YOU HEAR
ME?

THE--THE
DIAMOND?

WHAT THE
HELL? HOW DID
YOU GET MY NUMBER?
AND HOW DID YOU
TURN ON MY
RINGER...



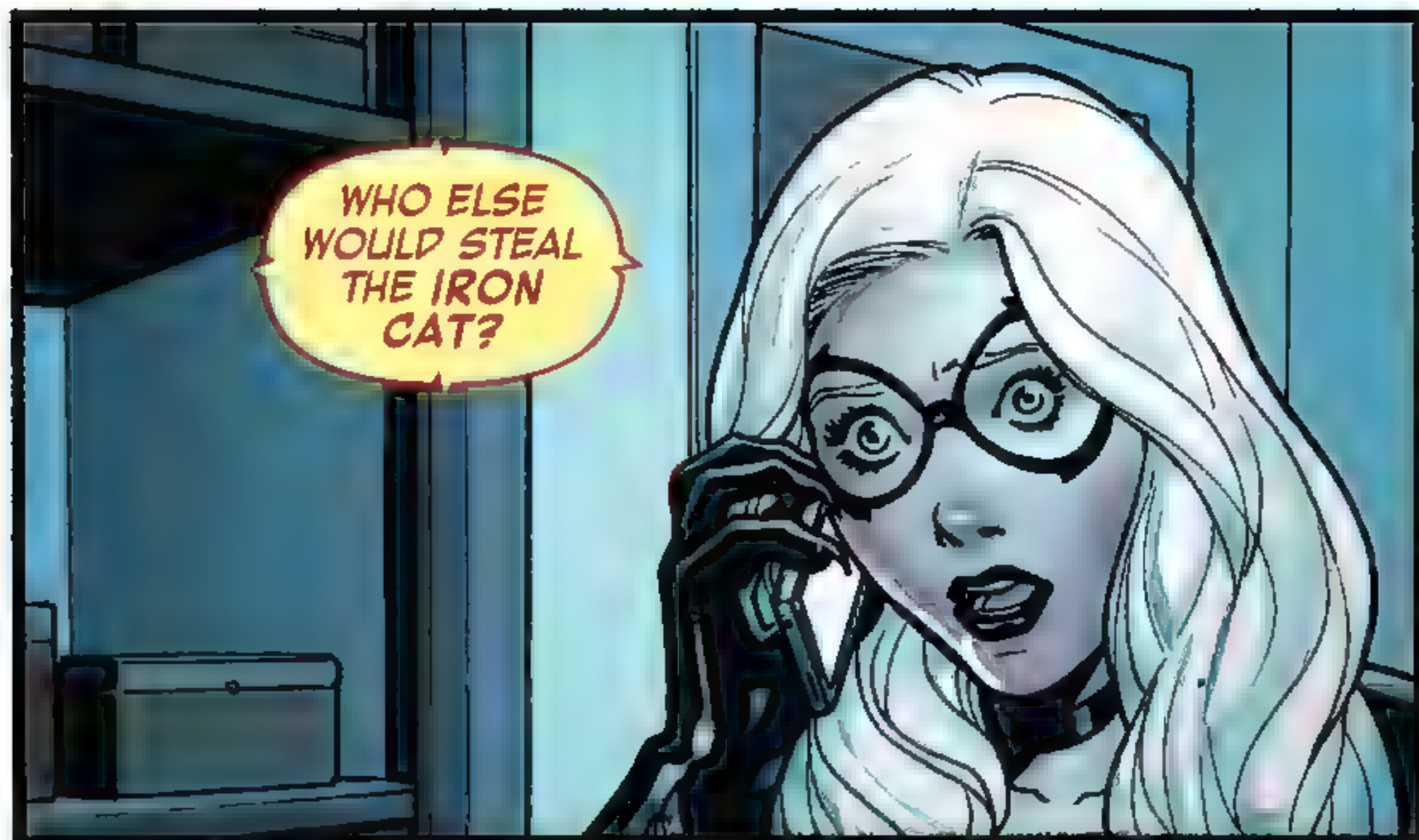
...STARK?

DIAMOND?

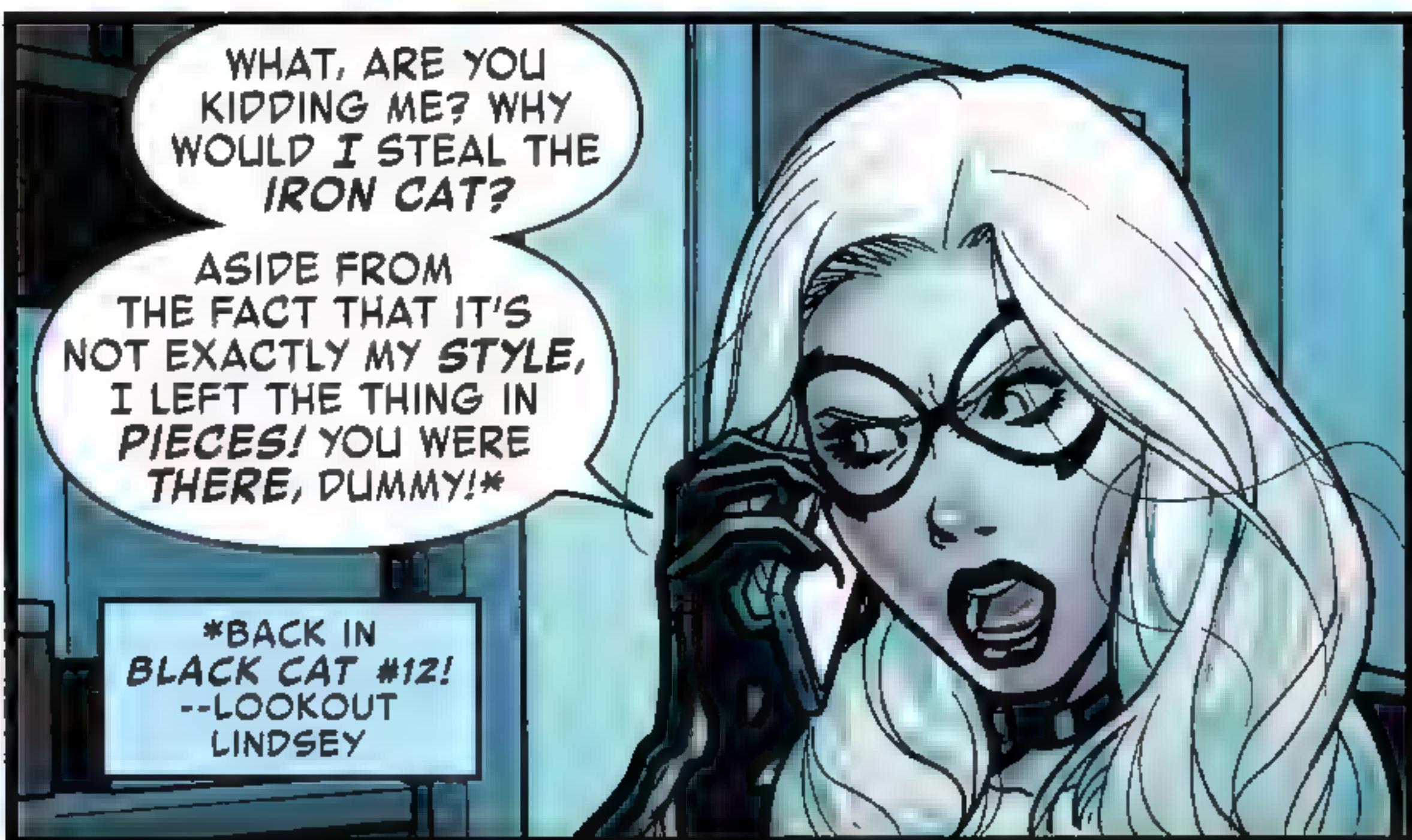
WHAT ARE YOU--

YOU HIT ME TONIGHT--ONE OF MY STORAGE FACILITIES. SCREENED IT WITH A VIRAL SYSTEM ATTACK THAT MY COMPUTER SYSTEMS ARE STILL FEELING.

AND HOW DO I KNOW IT WAS YOU?



WHO ELSE WOULD STEAL THE IRON CAT?



WHAT, ARE YOU KIDDING ME? WHY WOULD I STEAL THE IRON CAT?

ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT IT'S NOT EXACTLY MY *STYLE*, I LEFT THE THING IN *PIECES*! YOU WERE *THERE*, DUMMY!*

*BACK IN BLACK CAT #12!
--LOOKOUT LINDSEY



WELL, I REBUILT IT SINCE THEN. BETTER THAN EVER, ACTUALLY.

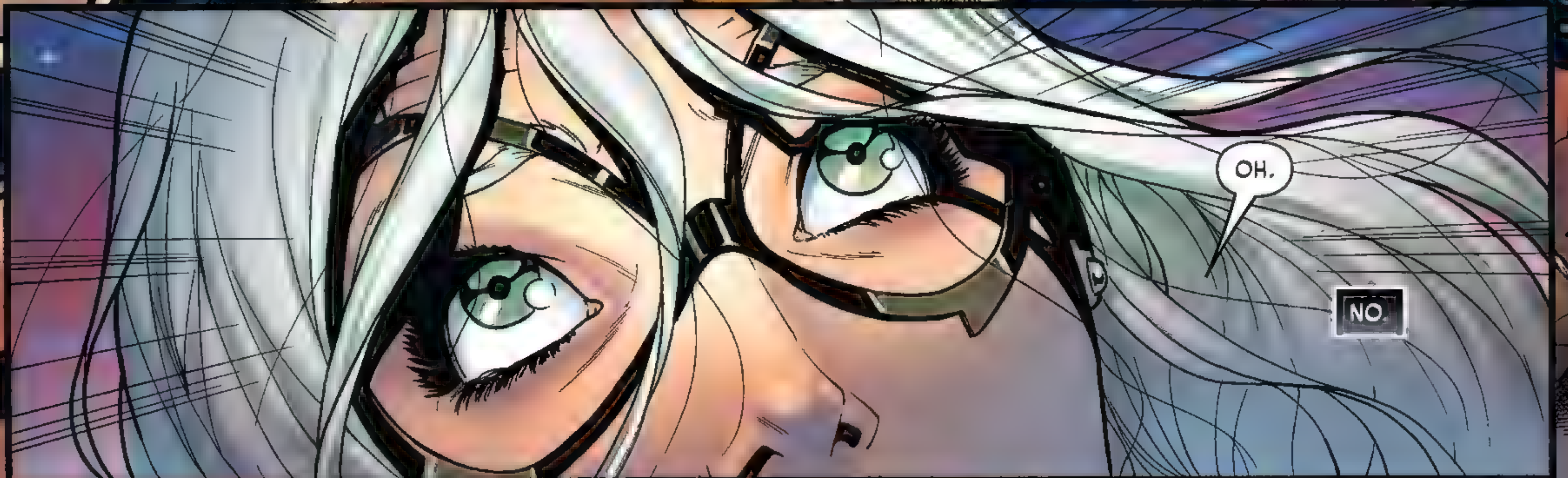
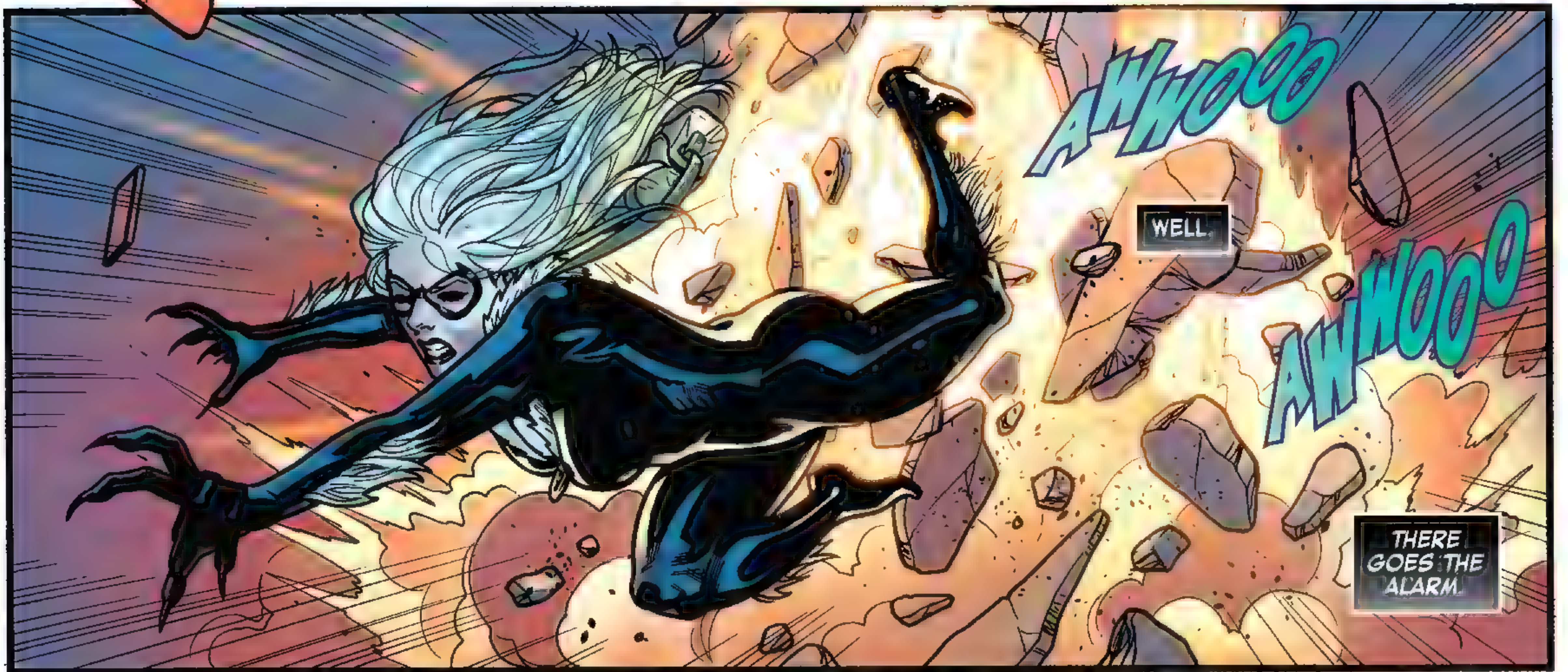
WHAT?! WHY?!

WHEN I GET BORED, I START WANTING A DRINK. I NEED THINGS TO OCCUPY MYSELF.

COOL. GREAT. NOW THAT WE'VE ESTABLISHED THAT I DIDN'T STEAL IT, CAN I GET ON WITH MY LIFE?



BECAUSE I'M ON A JOB RIGHT NOW, AND AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL, NONE OF THIS IS--



HELLO,
FELICIA.

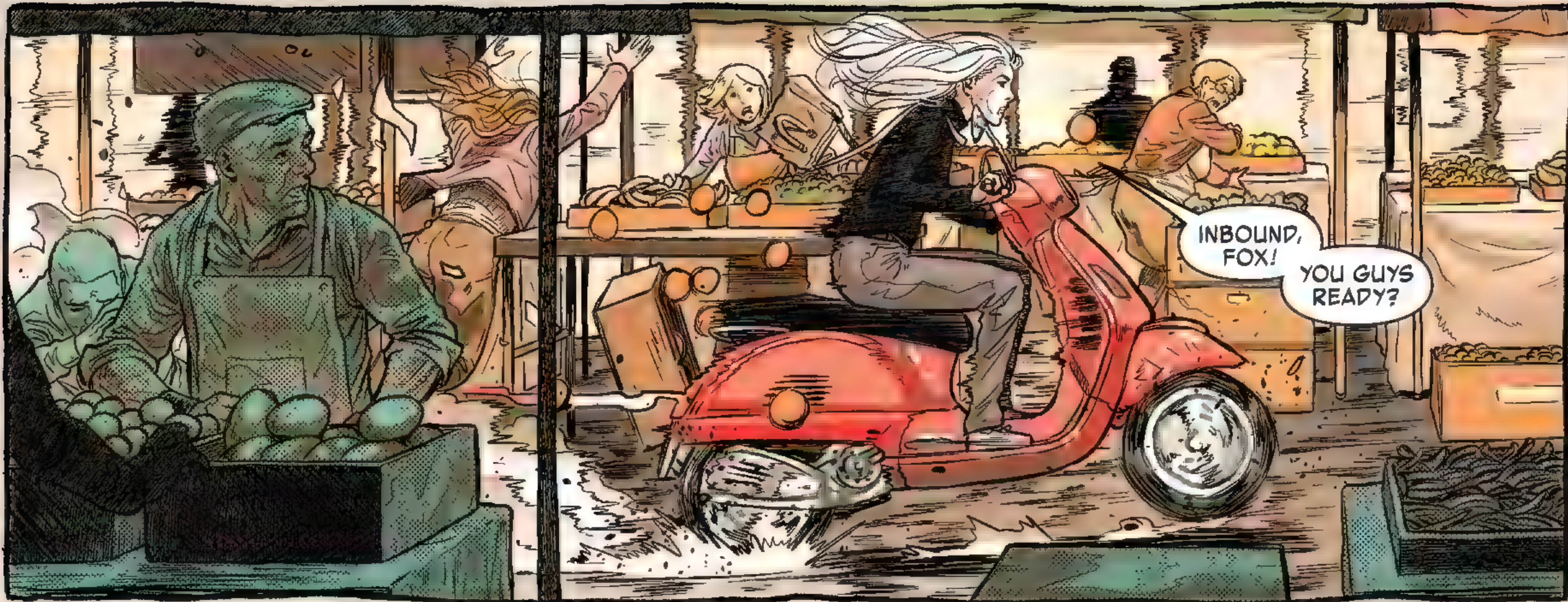
AWWOOO

AWWOOO

AWWOOO

IT WOULD APPEAR
THAT THIS IS MY
PROBLEM AFTER ALL





INBOUND,
FOX!

YOU GUYS
READY?



HEY,
BABY.

WE
ARE ON OUR
WAY, READY TO
INTERCEPT.



HM.

ABOUT
THAT.

SKREEE!



THERE'S
A PROBLEM WITH
THE ESCAPE ROUTE,
TAMARA.



SO, WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE, SHOWING UP AT MY JOB, WEARING MY OLD OUTFIT?



DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT, FELICIA.

YOU ALWAYS HAD SUCH TASTE IN CLOTHES.

AS FOR A NAME, **IRONCAT** WILL DO, I SUPPOSE.



LISTEN, YOU'RE WELCOME TO WHATEVER ELSE IS IN THE VAULT, I JUST WANT THE DIAMOND--



YEEK!

WHAT IS
GOING ON.

WHAT HAS
HAPPENED TO
MY LIFE.

STARK THINKS
I STOLE THE
IRON CAT.

THE IRON CAT--
WHOEVER THEY
ARE--IS TRYING
TO KILL ME.



WHY IS
EVERYONE
ON MY ASS
TONIGHT?

WHAT THE HELL
DID I DO?

THE IRON
CAT'S FAST
AS HELL

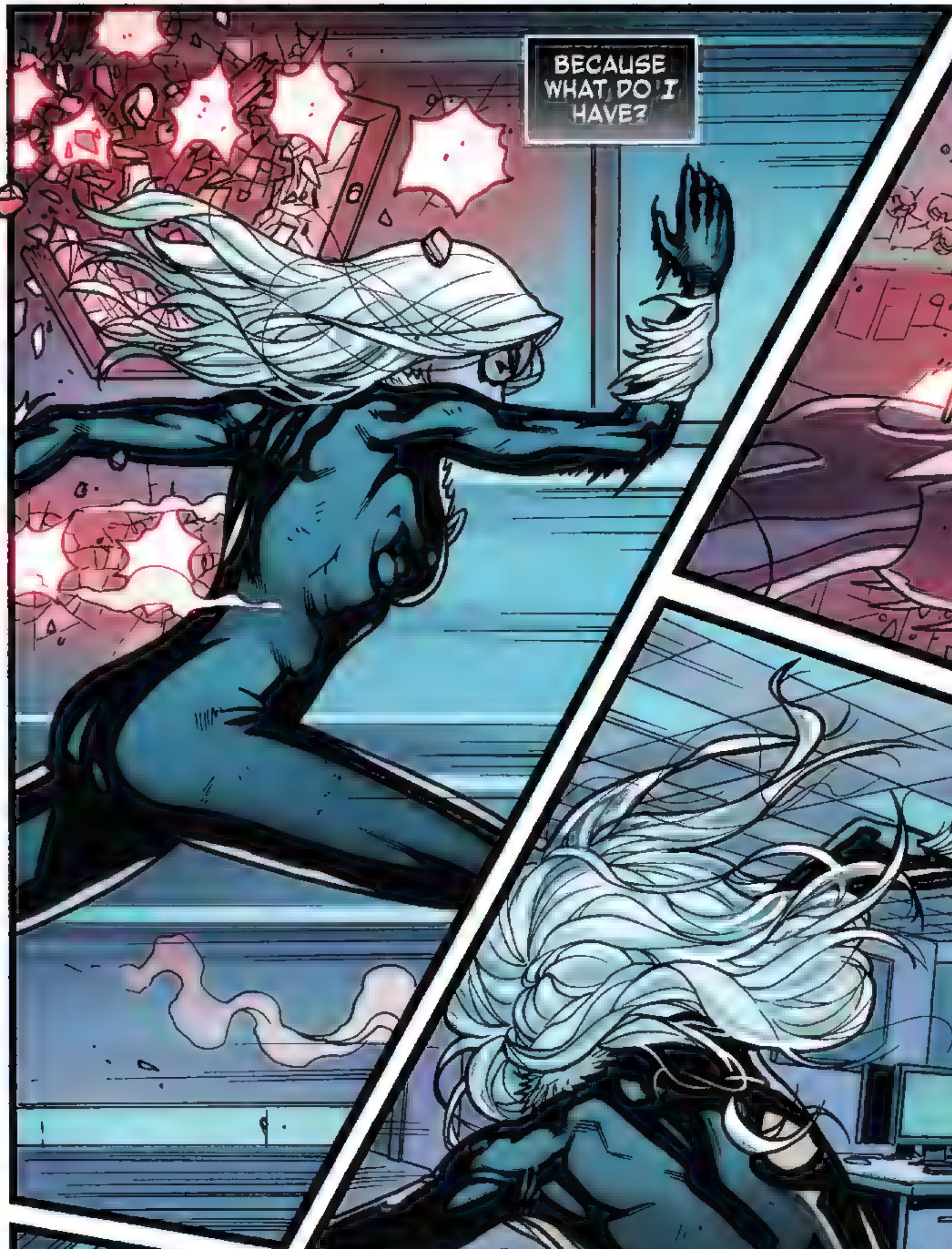
I SHOULD KNOW--
I DESIGNED IT. (WITH THE
HELP OF A STARK EXPERT
SYSTEM, OF COURSE)

USED TO BE, THAT WAS ALL
IT HAD GOING FOR IT--IT
WAS ALL SPEED, ECM, AND
CLAWS. NO REPULSORS, NO
LIFE SUPPORT, BARELY ANY
ARMOR TO SPEAK OF

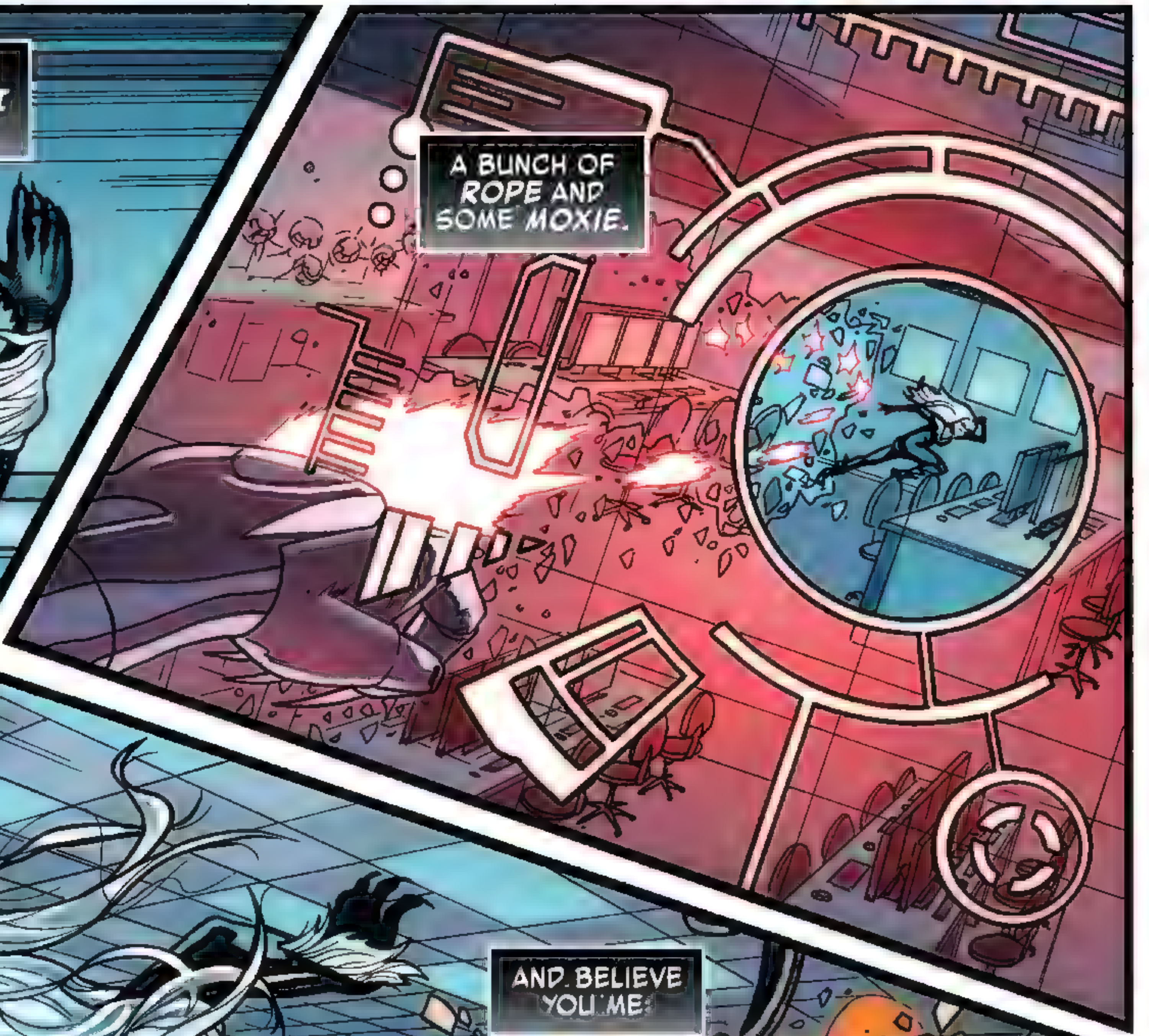
BUT STARK **REBUILT** IT.
AND STARK IS A HELL OF
A LOT BETTER AT PLAYING
'DRESS-UP DOLLIES' WITH
WEARABLE WMDs THAN I AM

WHAT I'M SAYING
IS: I HAVE NO IDEA
WHAT IT'S CAPABLE
OF NOW.

WHAT I'M
SAYING IS:
I'M TOAST



BECAUSE
WHAT DO I
HAVE?



A BUNCH OF
ROPE AND
SOME MOXIE.

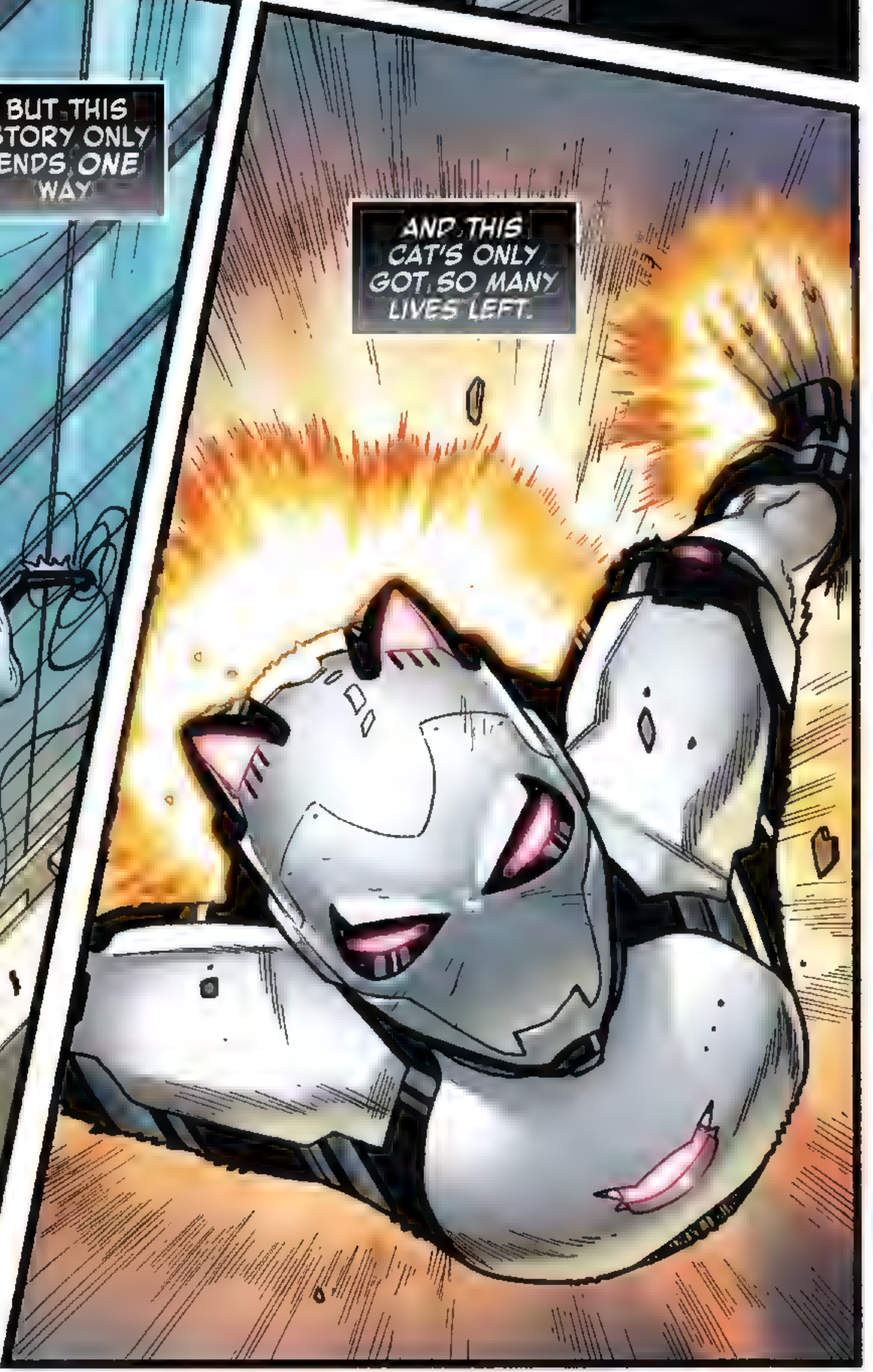


AND BELIEVE
YOU ME.



I HAVE MOXIE
FOR DAYS.

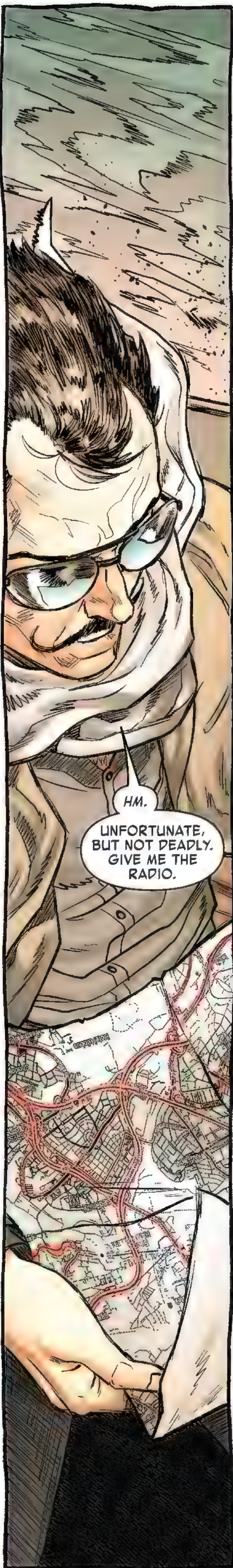
BUT THIS
STORY ONLY
ENDS ONE
WAY.



AND THIS
CAT'S ONLY
GOT SO MANY
LIVES LEFT.

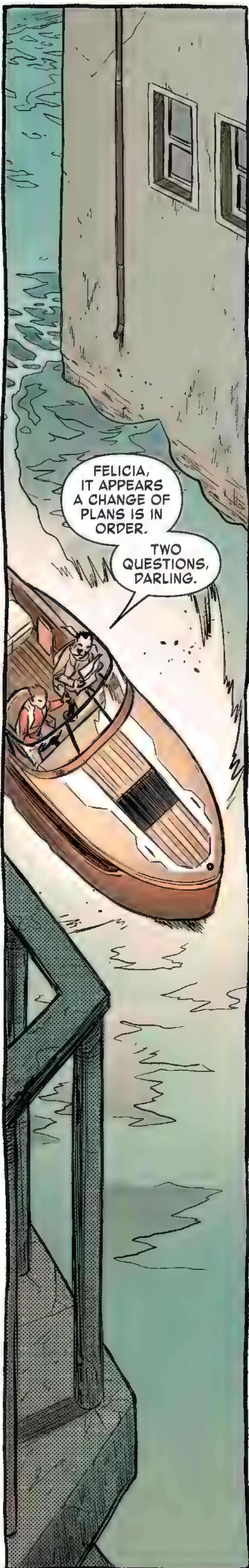


FOX! FELICIA'S
ESCAPE ROUTE IS
BLOCKED! SHE
CAN'T MAKE IT TO
THE DOCKS!



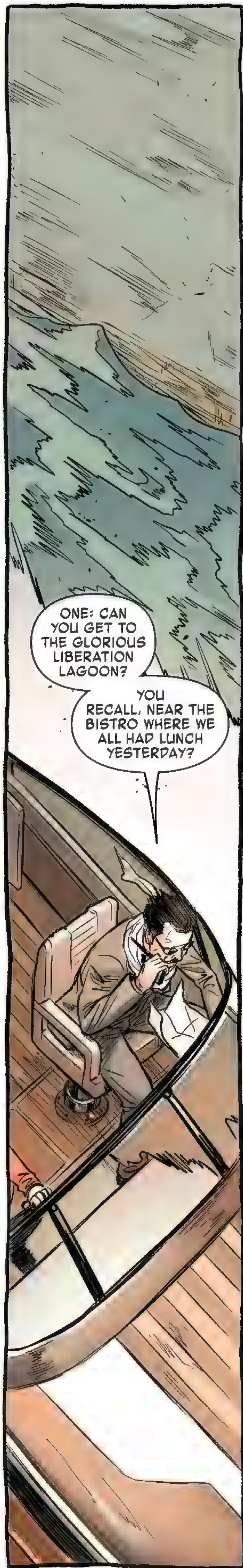
HM.

UNFORTUNATE,
BUT NOT DEADLY.
GIVE ME THE
RADIO.



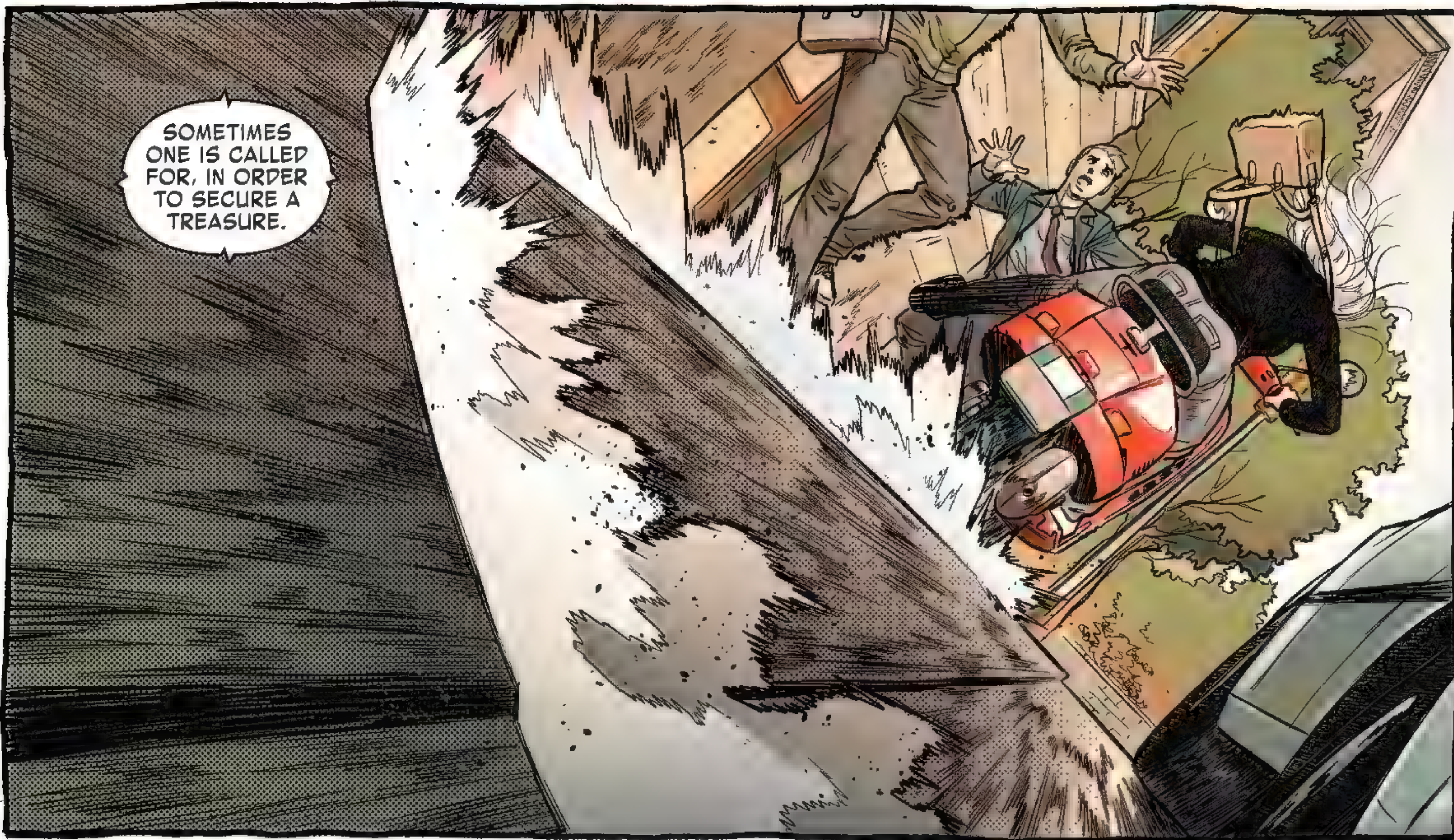
FELICIA,
IT APPEARS
A CHANGE OF
PLANS IS IN
ORDER.

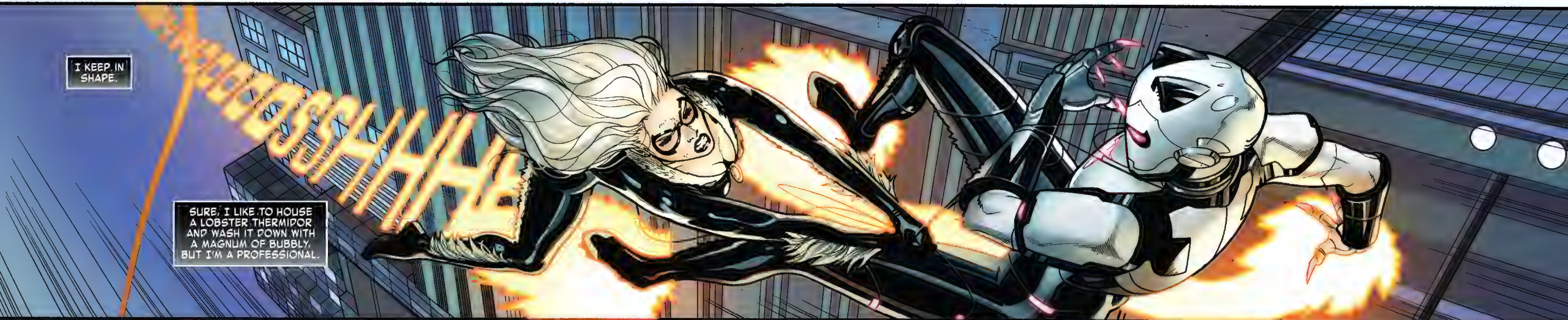
TWO
QUESTIONS,
DARLING.



ONE: CAN
YOU GET TO
THE GLORIOUS
LIBERATION
LAGOON?

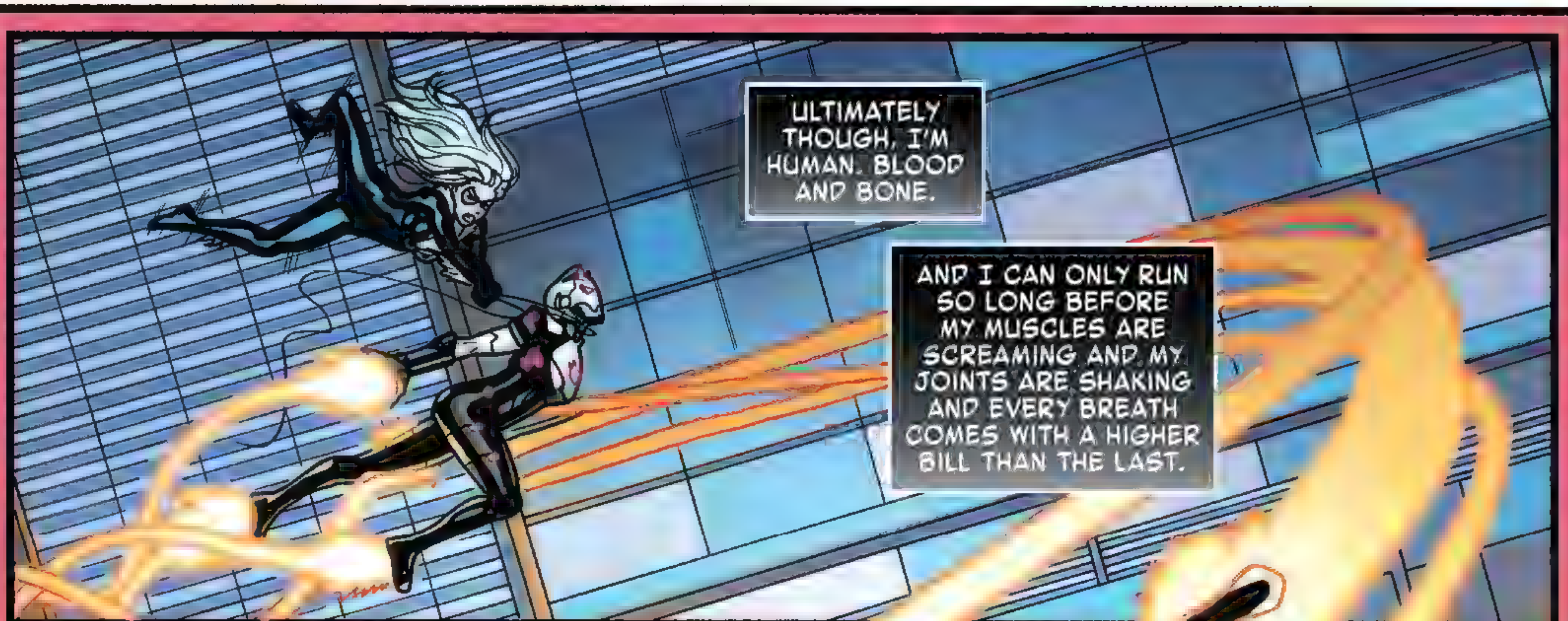
YOU
RECALL, NEAR THE
BISTRO WHERE WE
ALL HAD LUNCH
YESTERDAY?





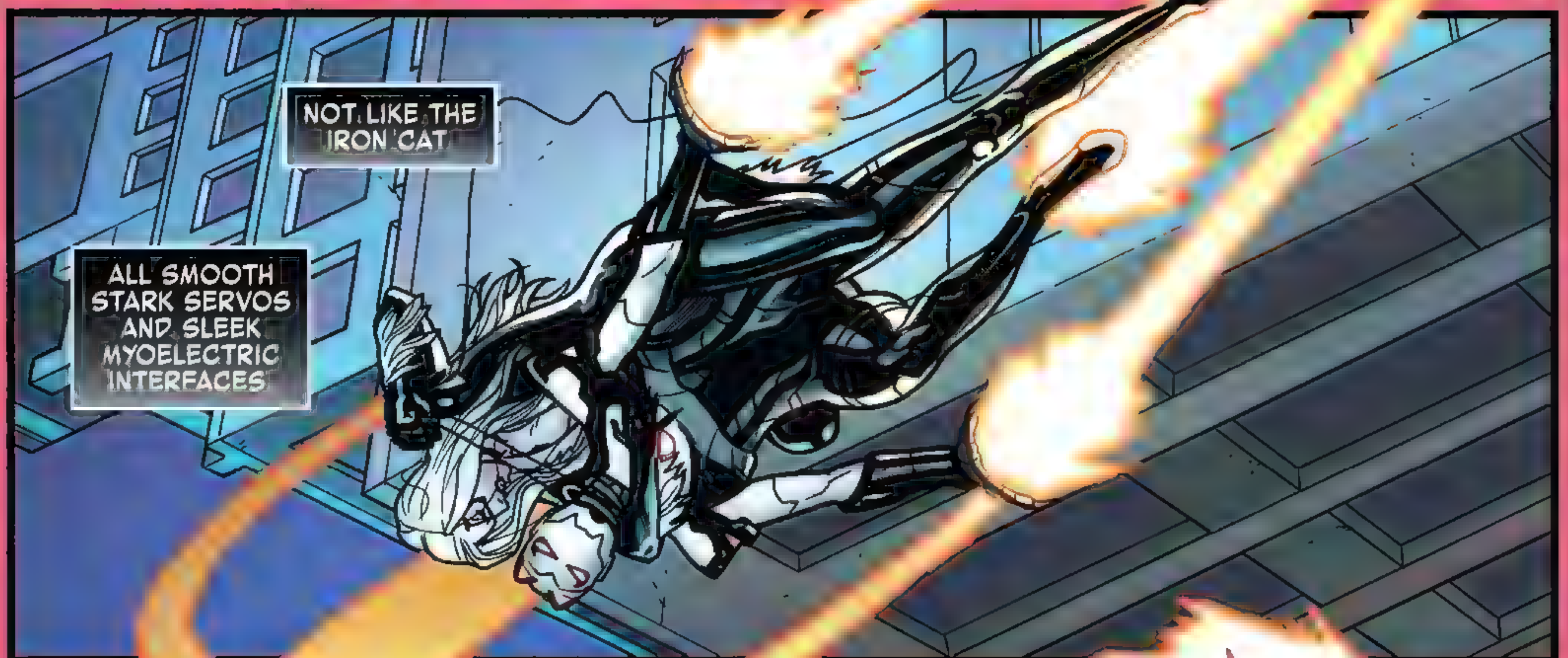
I KEEP IN
SHAPE.

SURE, I LIKE TO HOUSE
A LOBSTER THERMIDOR
AND WASH IT DOWN WITH
A MAGNUM OF BUBBLY,
BUT I'M A PROFESSIONAL.



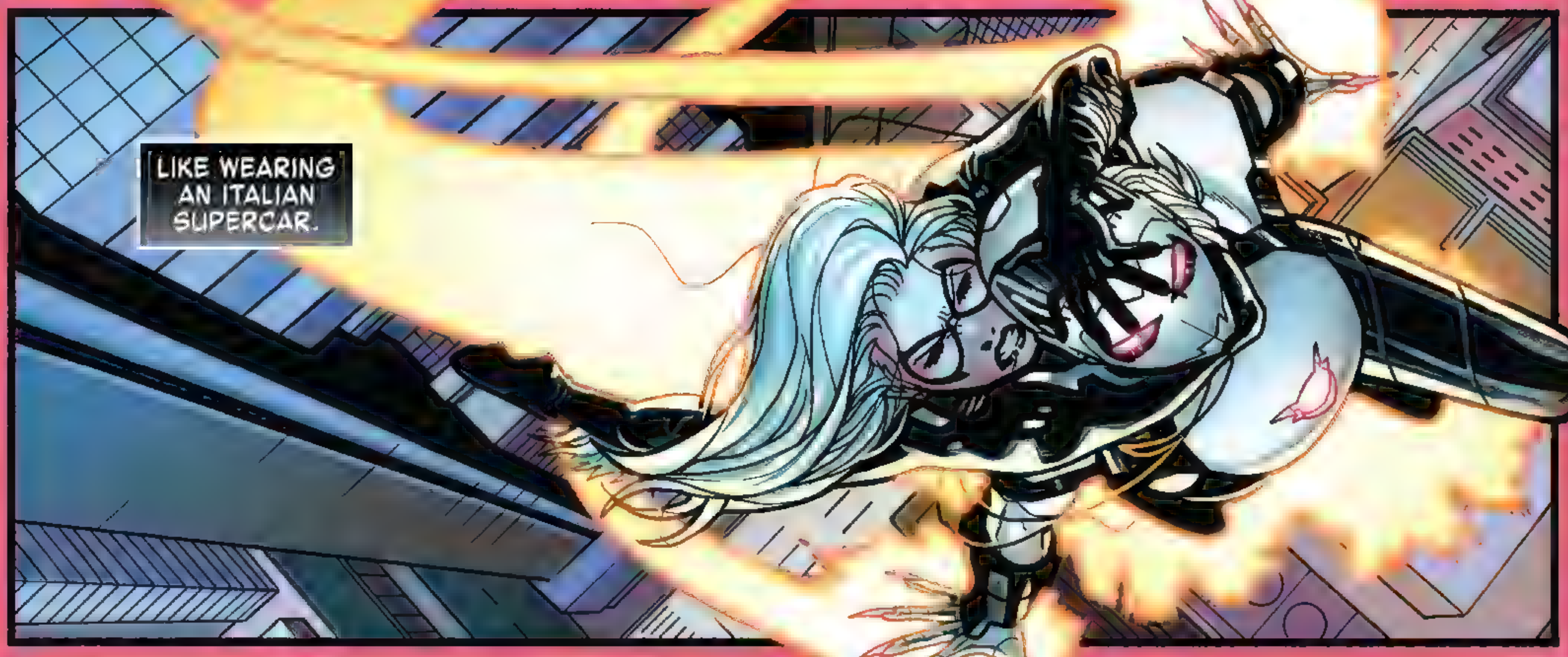
ULTIMATELY
THOUGH, I'M
HUMAN. BLOOD
AND BONE.

AND I CAN ONLY RUN
SO LONG BEFORE
MY MUSCLES ARE
SCREAMING AND MY
JOINTS ARE SHAKING
AND EVERY BREATH
COMES WITH A HIGHER
BILL THAN THE LAST.

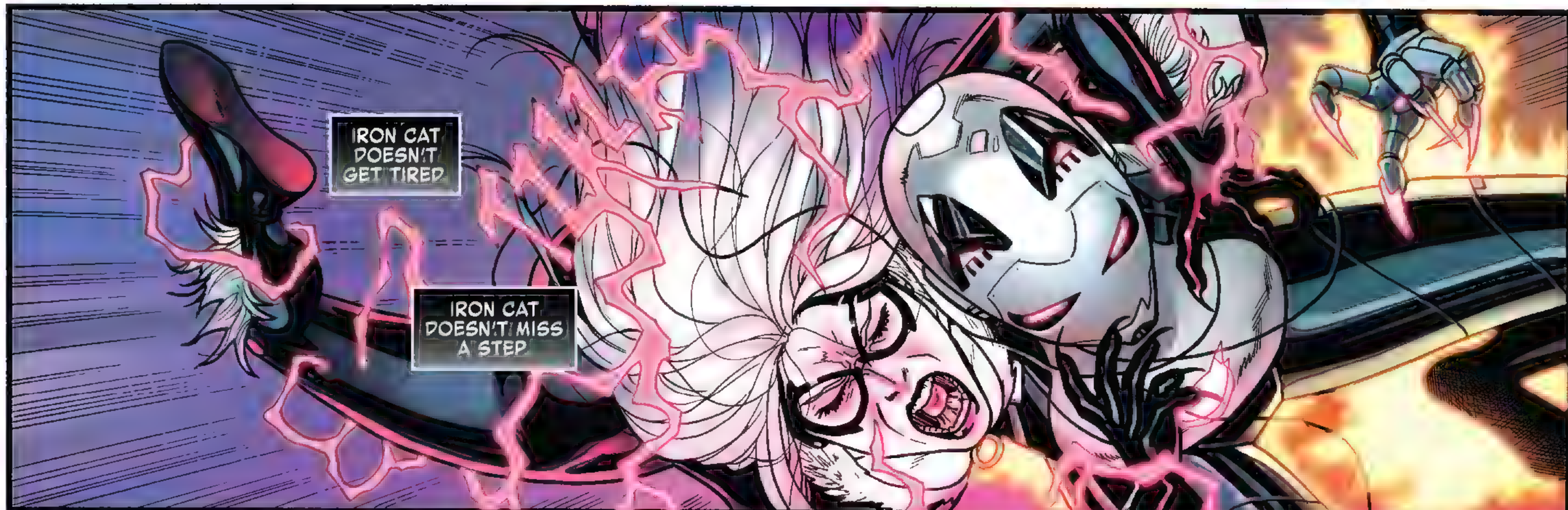


NOT LIKE THE
IRON CAT

ALL SMOOTH
STARK SERVOS
AND SLEEK
MYOELECTRIC
INTERFACES



LIKE WEARING
AN ITALIAN
SUPERCAR.



IRON CAT
DOESN'T
GET TIRED

IRON CAT
DOESN'T MISS
A STEP



SHUFF
SHUFF

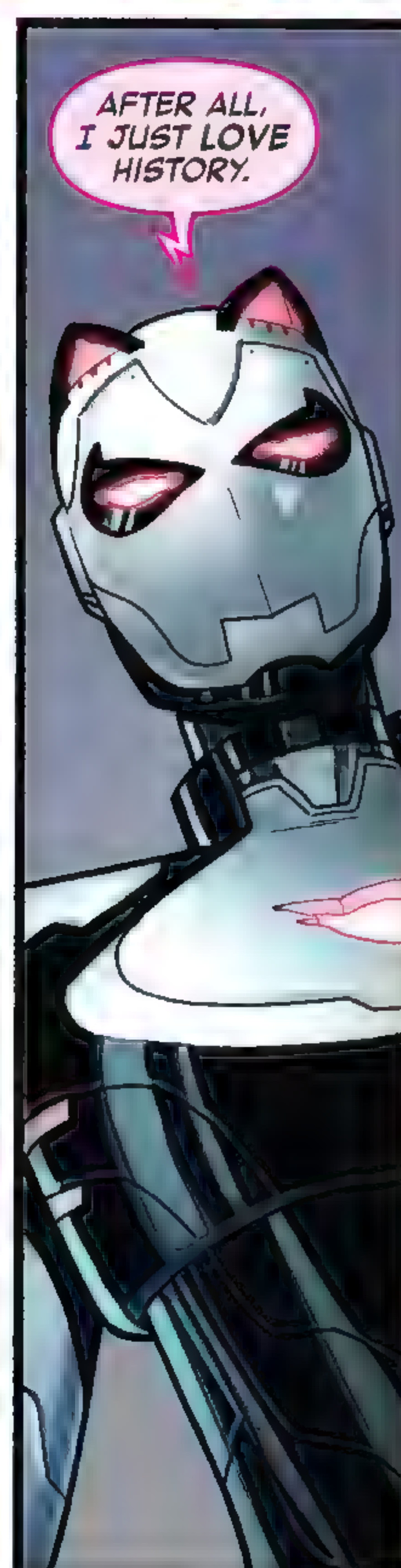
FINE.

YOU
CAN HAVE THE
DIAMOND. WOULDN'T
BE THE FIRST TIME
I'VE HAD TO GIVE
IT UP.

HNN.



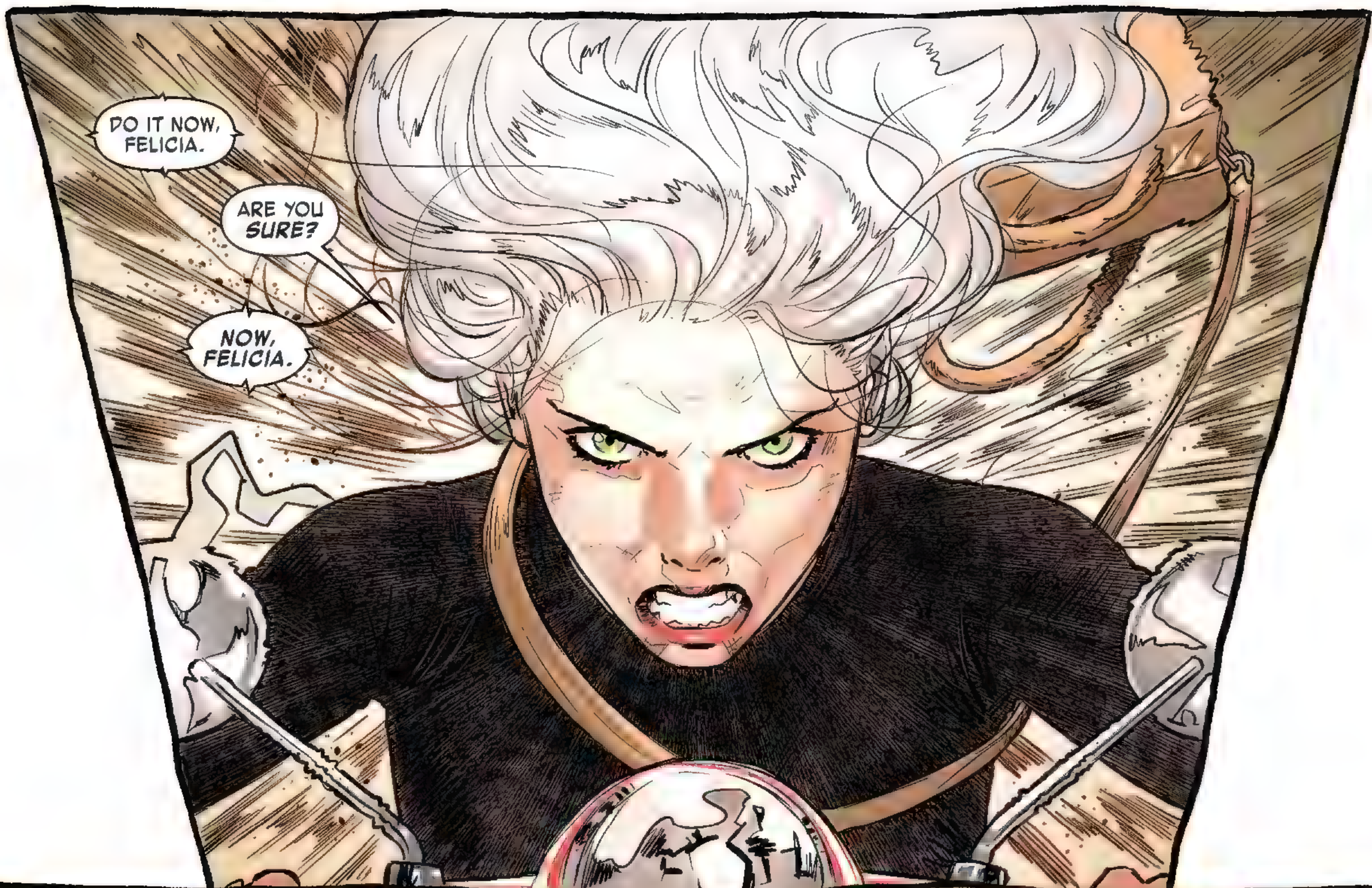
SO YOU
DO REMEMBER
THE FIRST TIME.
PERSHYY MISTO,
CARNELIA.



AFTER ALL,
I JUST LOVE
HISTORY.



NO
WAY.



DO IT NOW,
FELICIA.

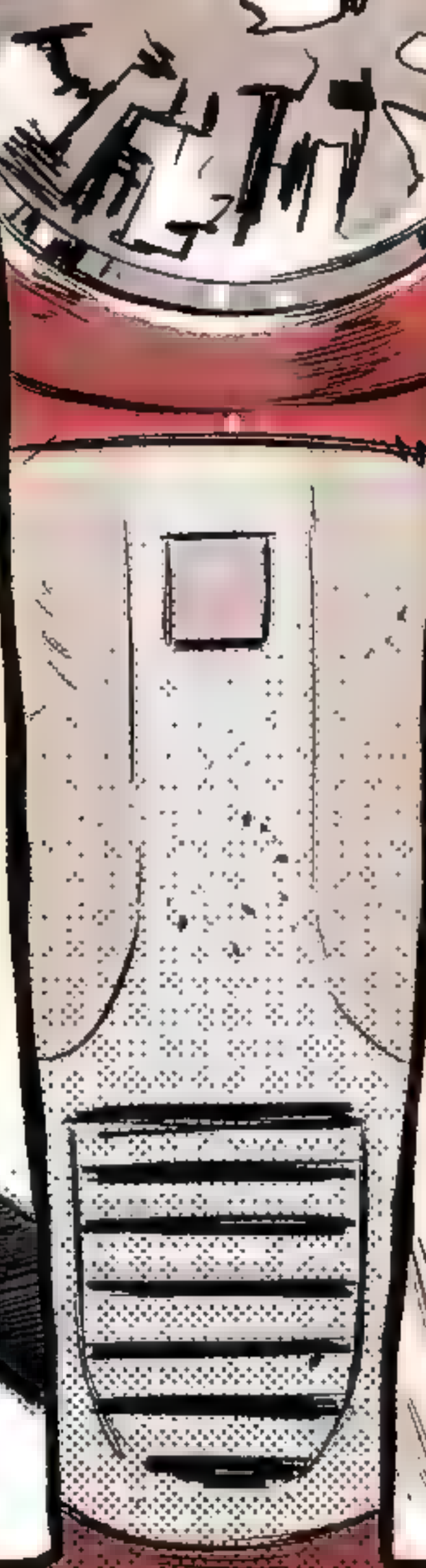
ARE YOU
SURE?

NOW,
FELICIA.



DAMMIT.

GO
ON, TAKE
THE DAMN
DIAMOND
BACK!

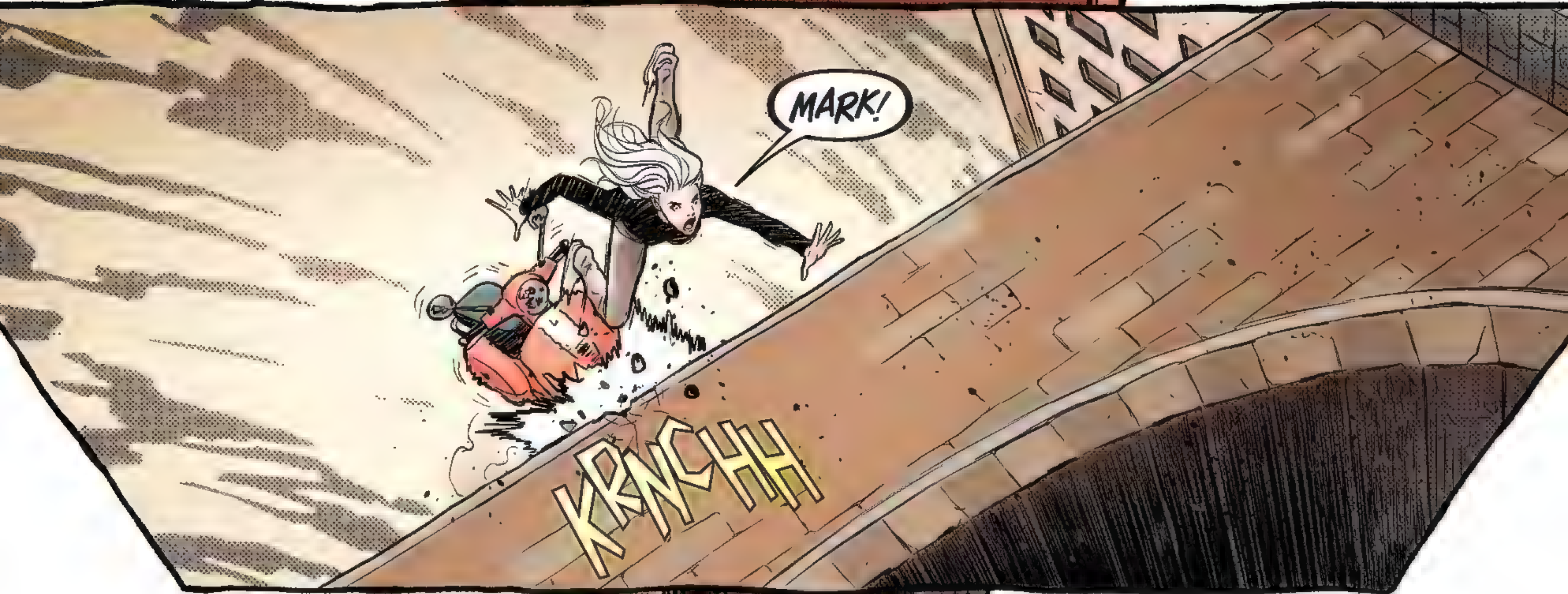


YOU
GOING TO BE
THERE FOR ME,
TAMARA?

ALWAYS.

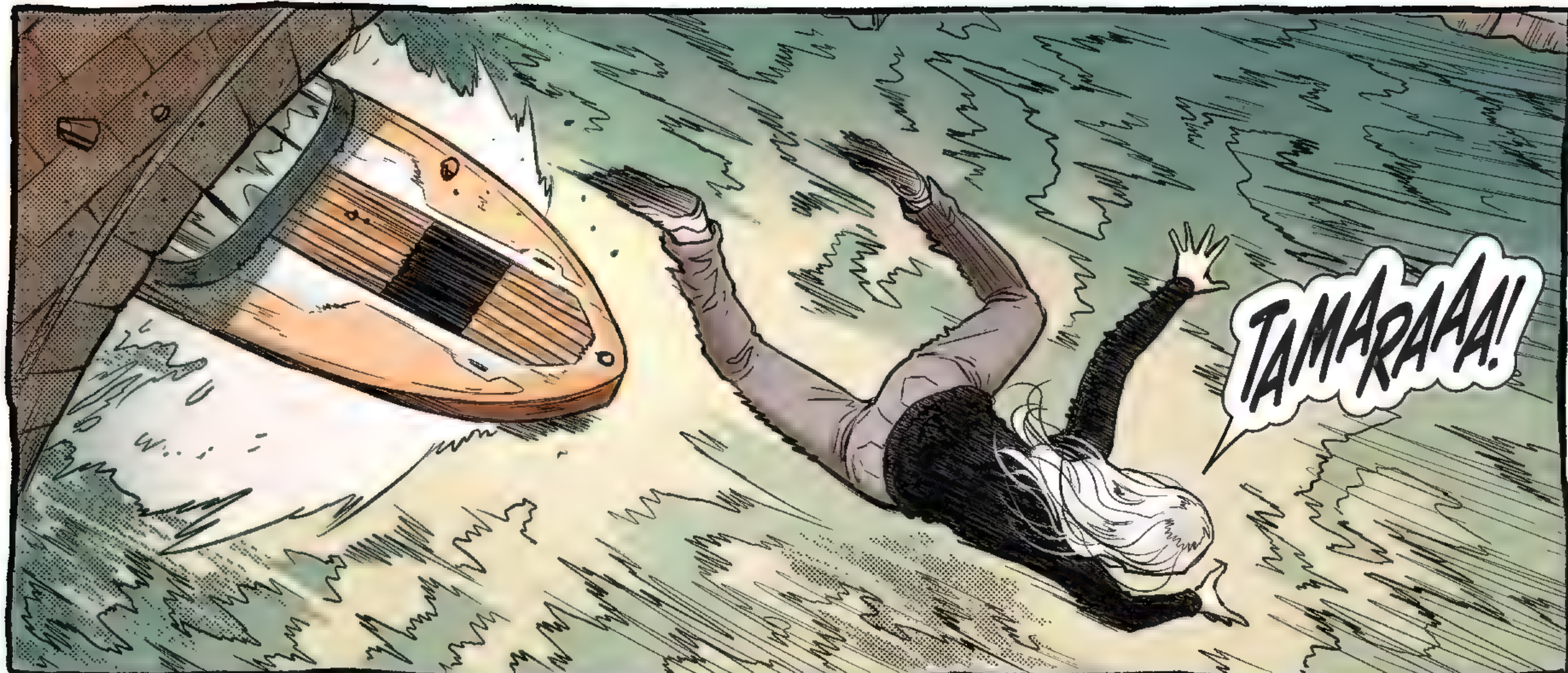
YEAH,
I KNOW.

READY ON
MY MARK.



MARK!

KRNCCHH

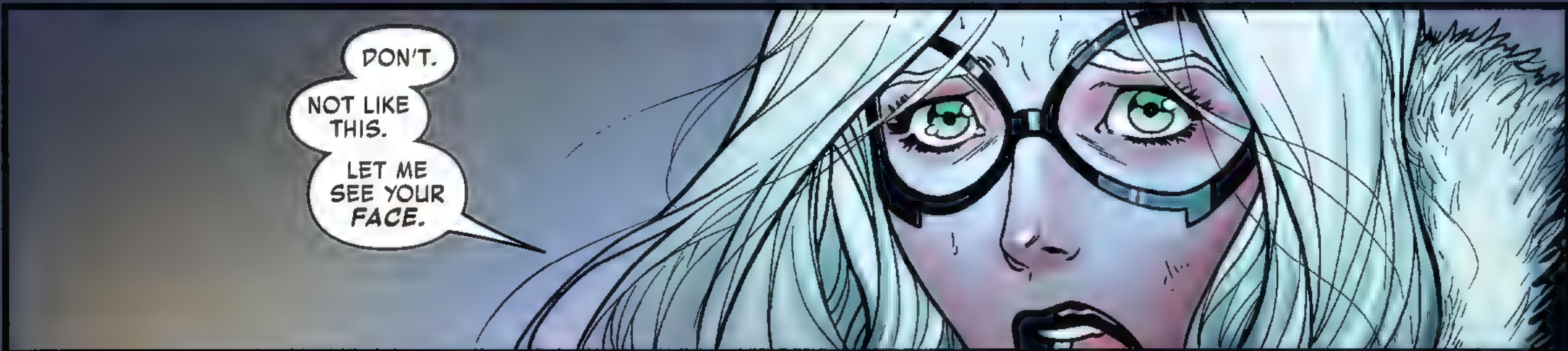




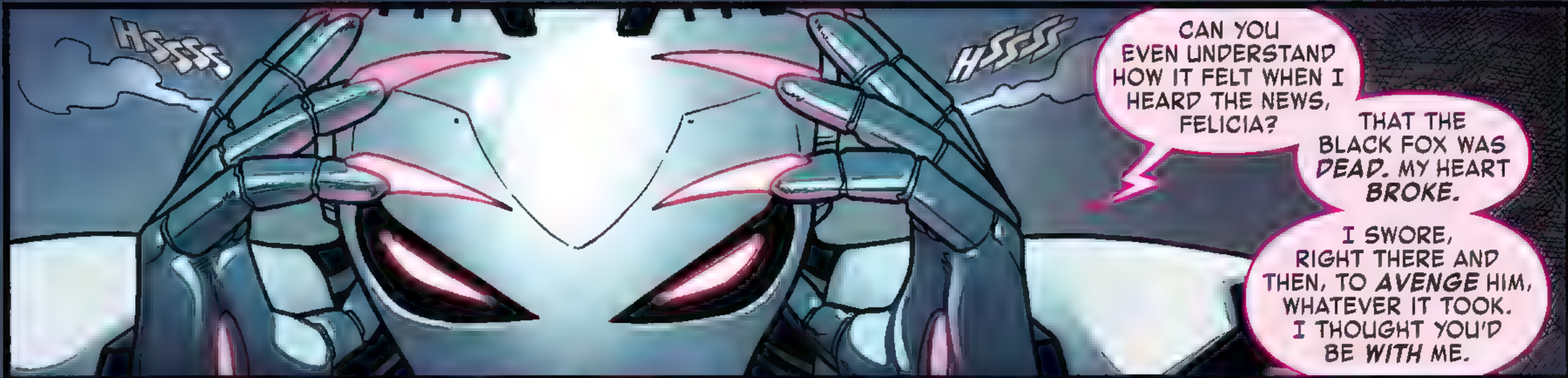
HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE DIAMOND, FELICIA.

THAT'S WHY HE TOLD YOU TO LEAVE IT BEHIND. TO HOLD OFF THE COPS-- SO WE COULD ESCAPE.

YOU WERE THE TREASURE HE COULDN'T BEAR TO LOSE.



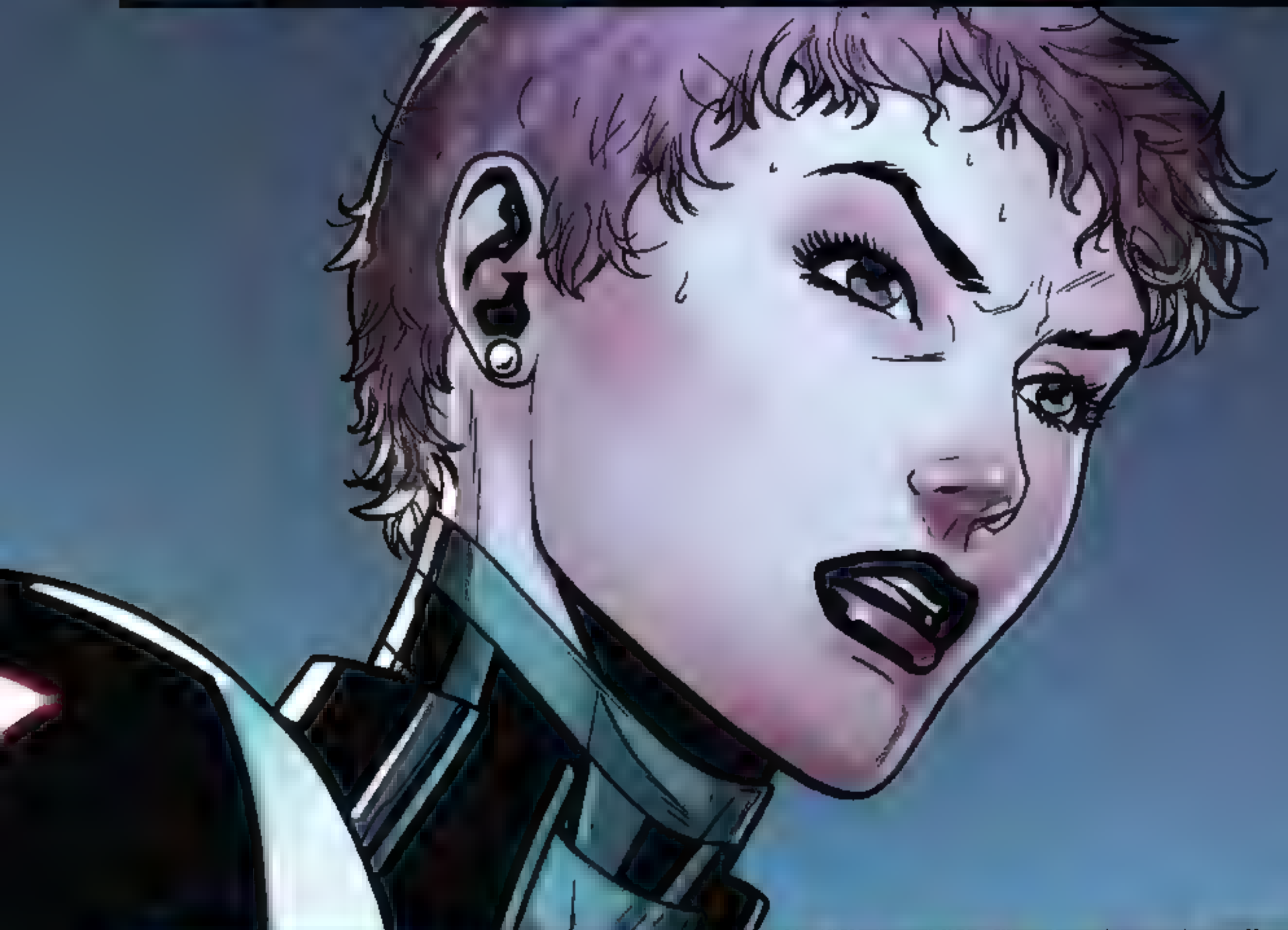
DON'T.
NOT LIKE THIS.
LET ME SEE YOUR FACE.



CAN YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND HOW IT FELT WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS, FELICIA?

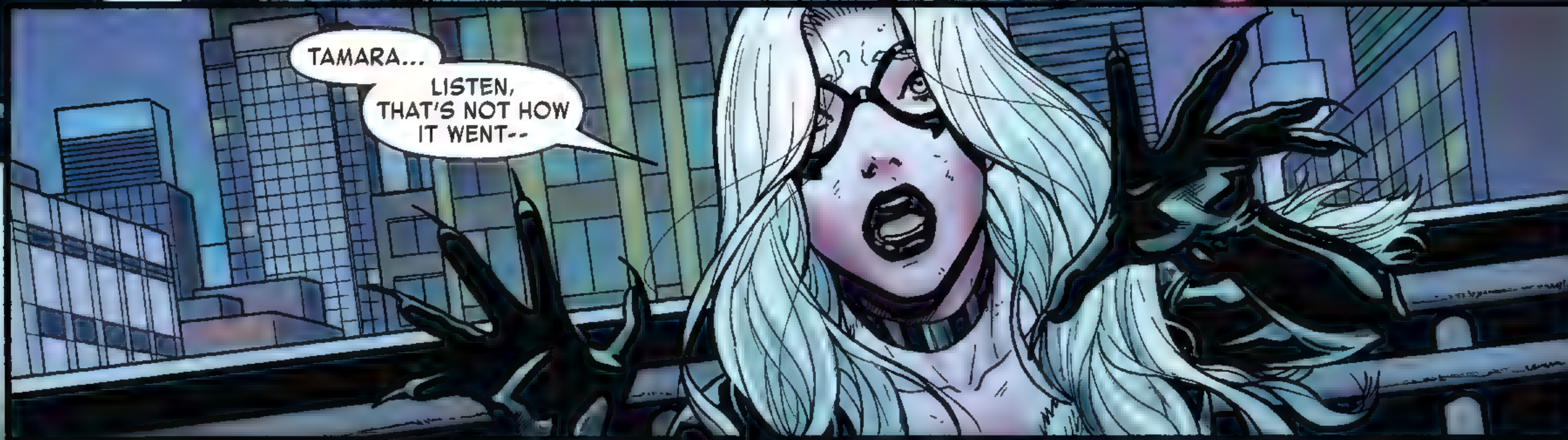
THAT THE BLACK FOX WAS DEAD. MY HEART BROKE.

I SWORE, RIGHT THERE AND THEN, TO AVENGE HIM, WHATEVER IT TOOK. I THOUGHT YOU'D BE WITH ME.



BUT THEN LATER, TO FIND OUT THAT YOU KILLED HIM?!

TAMARA BLAKE.
THE IRON CAT.
INTERNATIONAL THIEF.
NOW OCCUPIED WITH REVENGE.



TAMARA...
LISTEN, THAT'S NOT HOW IT WENT--

THEN
TELL ME THAT
YOU'RE NOT
RESPONSIBLE,
FELICIA.

I CAN'T LIE TO HER.
I NEVER COULD.

SHE KNOWS ALL
MY TELLS. ALL THE
SECRETS OF MY
HEART, BETTER
THAN ANYONE

I AM
RESPONSIBLE.
I DID IT.

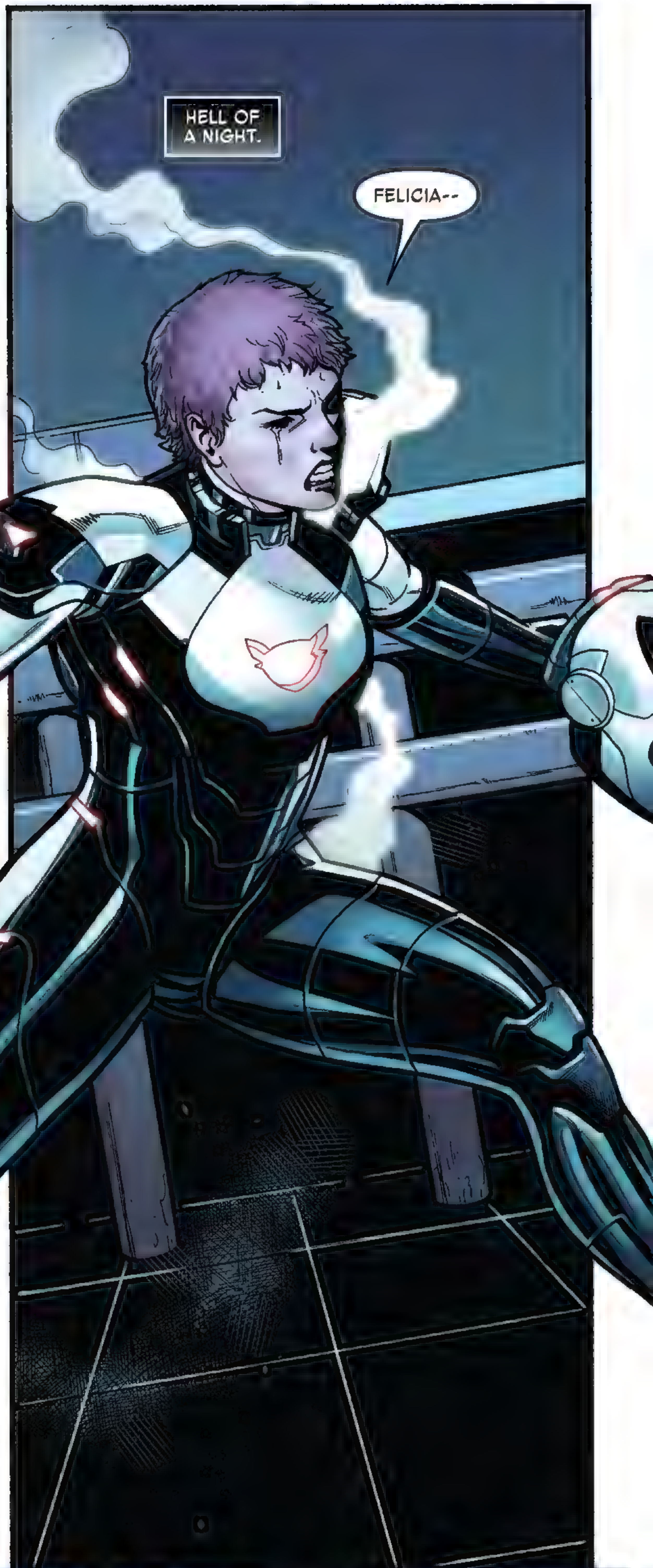
AND SHE'S GEARED
TO KILL ME RIGHT
HERE FOR IT.

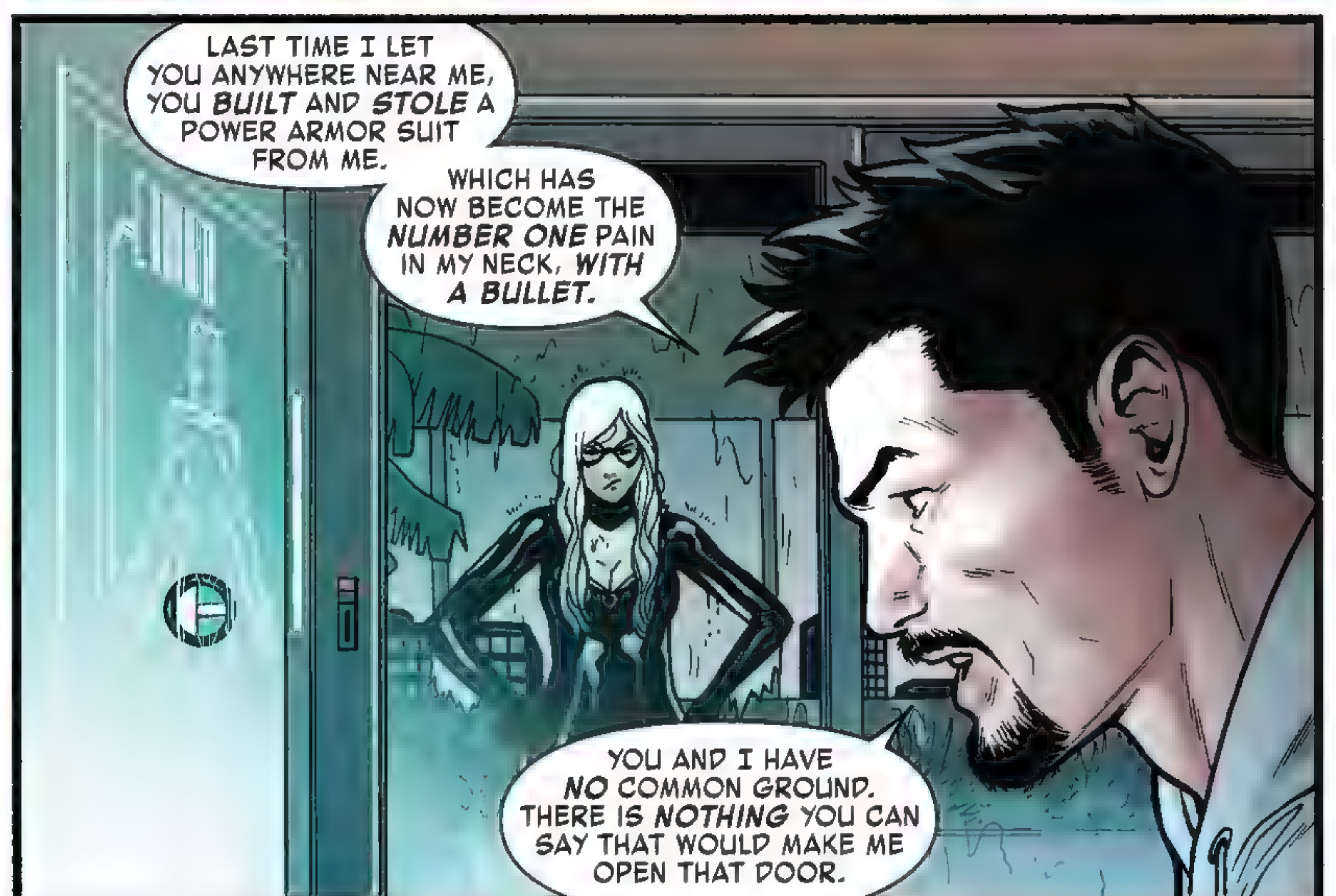
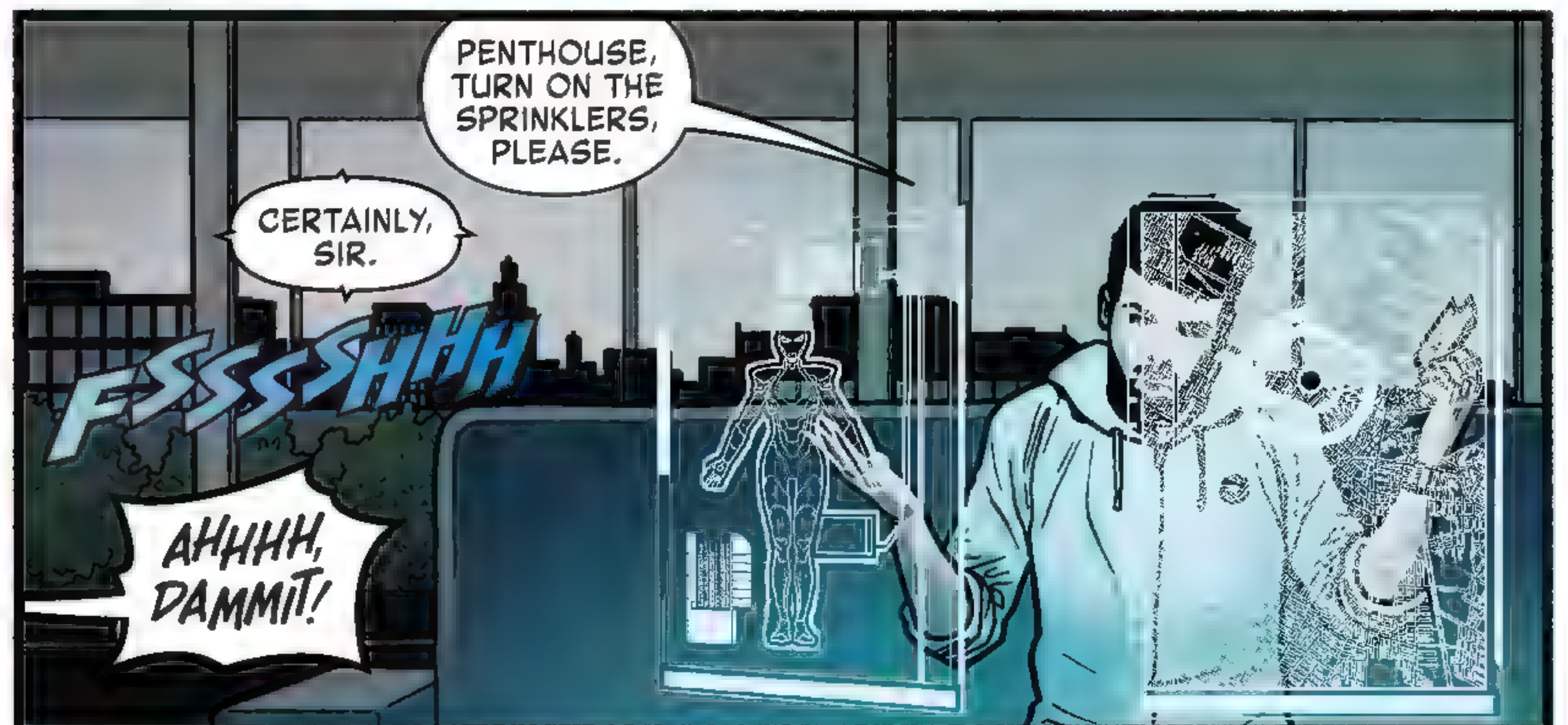
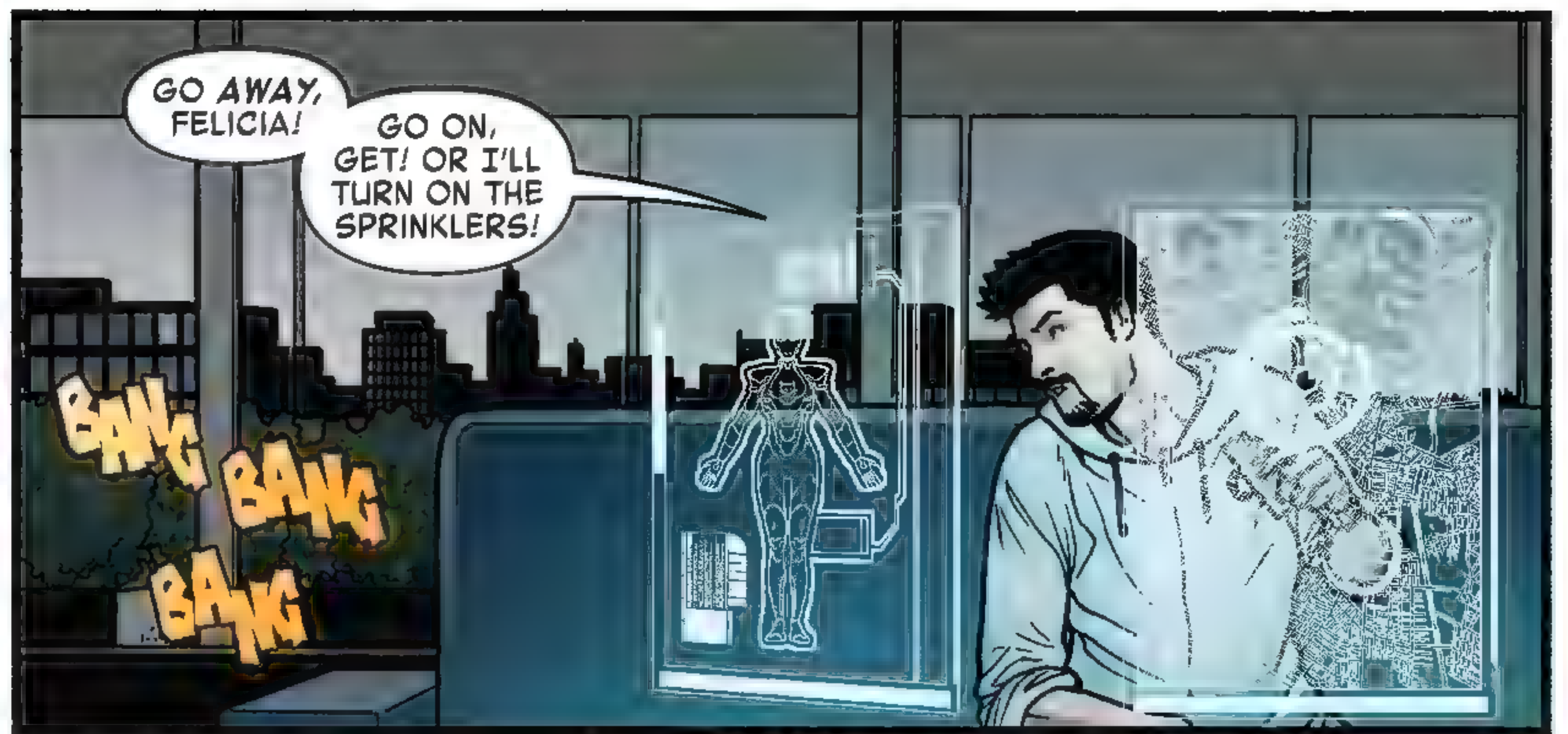
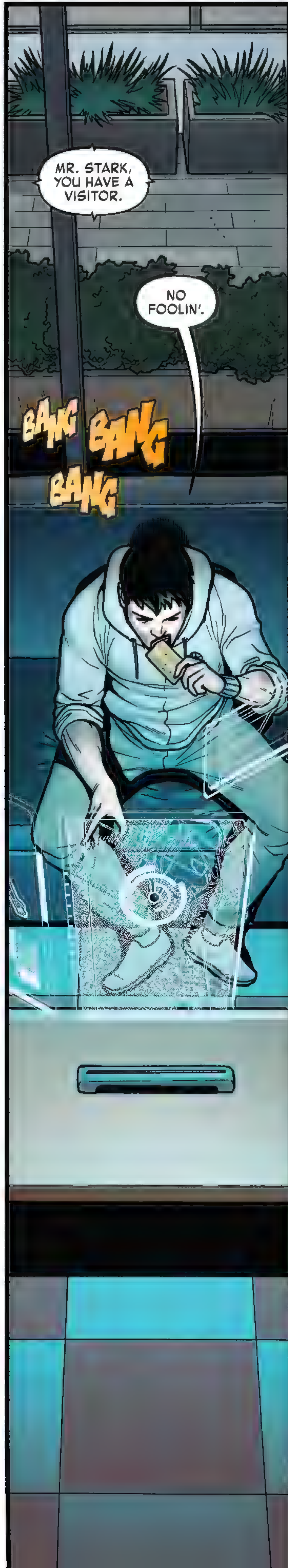
BUT SHE'S
NOT WEARING
HER HELMET.

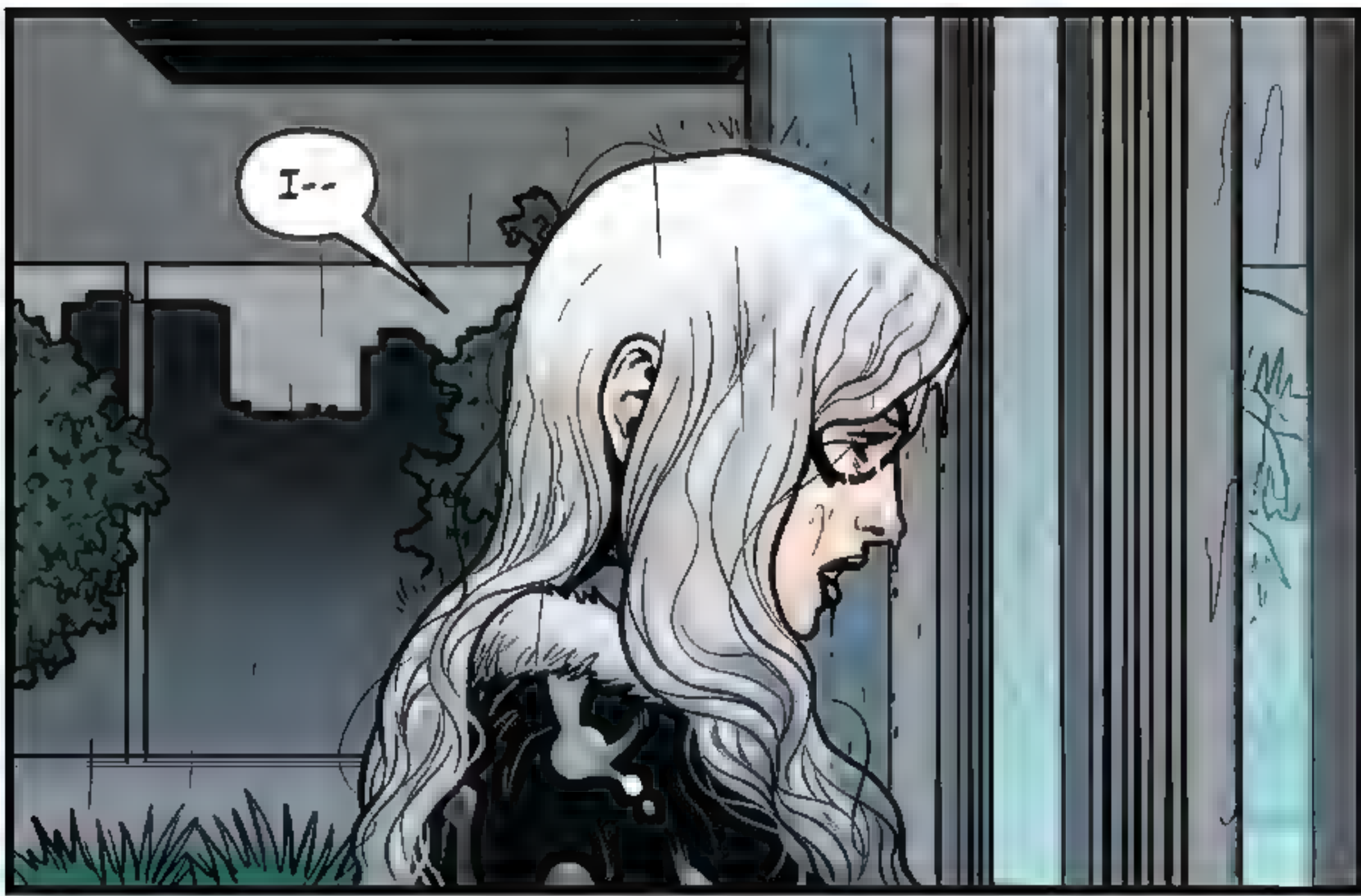
I'M SORRY,
TAMARA.

FLASH

YAAAAAHH!









THAT HAS
HAPPENED TO
ME SO MANY
TIMES.



STARK HOLDING FACILITY,
NEW JERSEY.
NOW.

...SO
DON'T TAKE THIS
THE WRONG WAY,
BUT DIDN'T YOU GET
OUT OF TECH IN A
BIG, PUBLIC
WAY?

I DID.

BUT I HAD A
LOT OF THINGS
THAT I COULDN'T
SELL, COULDN'T LEAVE
WITH ANYONE ELSE.
DANGEROUS
THINGS.

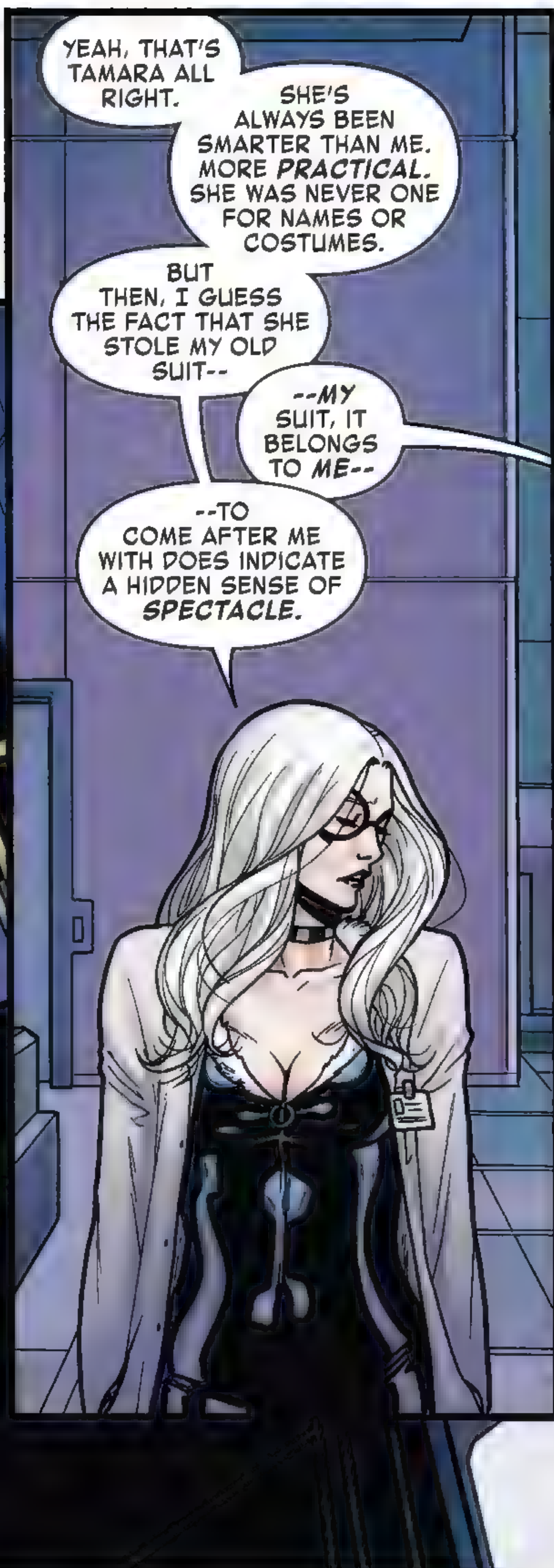
THINGS
LIKE THE *IRON*
CAT, FOR INSTANCE.
AND THE NANOFORGE
YOU USED TO
BUILD IT.

SO I KEPT
A SMALL FACILITY, A
HOLDING COMPANY, TO
HOLD THESE THINGS. WHICH
YOUR EX BROKE INTO AND
ROBBED BEFORE SCRAMBLING
MY SYSTEMS WITH A
VIRAL ASSAULT.

A VIRAL
ASSAULT THAT'S
SPREAD TO THE STARK
SYSTEMS OF MY FORMER
HOLDINGS WORLDWIDE--WHICH
MEANS I'M UP TO MY NECK
IN LAWSUITS FROM THE
PEOPLE I SOLD THOSE
ASSETS TO.

WHICH
MEANS THAT NOT
ONLY DO I NEED THAT
SUIT RETURNED, I NEED
TO KNOW WHAT VIRUS
SHE INTRODUCED INTO
THE SYSTEM IN HER
RAID.





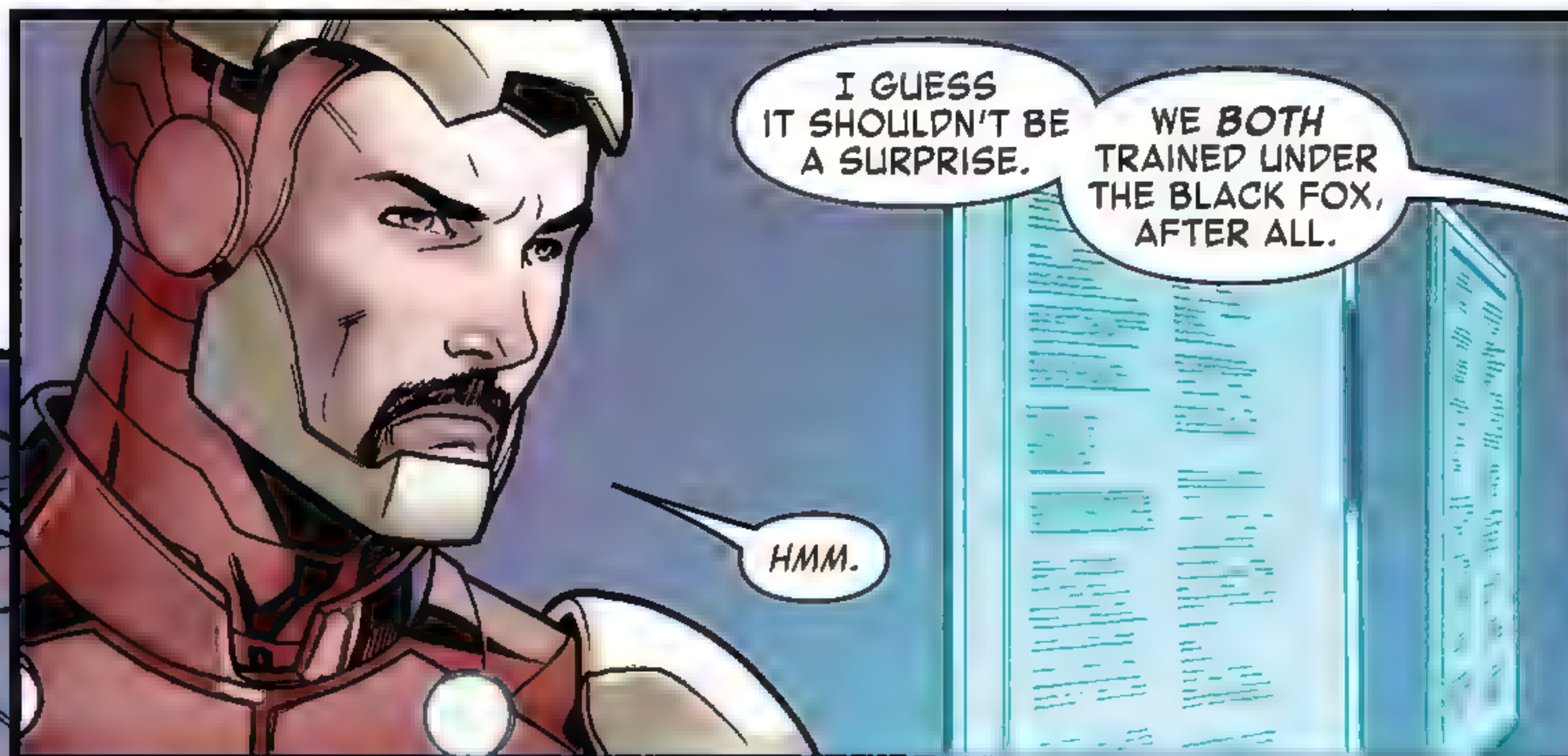
YEAH, THAT'S TAMARA ALL RIGHT.

SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN SMARTER THAN ME. MORE PRACTICAL. SHE WAS NEVER ONE FOR NAMES OR COSTUMES.

BUT THEN, I GUESS THE FACT THAT SHE STOLE MY OLD SUIT--

--MY SUIT, IT BELONGS TO ME--

--TO COME AFTER ME WITH DOES INDICATE A HIDDEN SENSE OF SPECTACLE.



I GUESS IT SHOULDN'T BE A SURPRISE.

WE BOTH TRAINED UNDER THE BLACK FOX, AFTER ALL.

HMM.

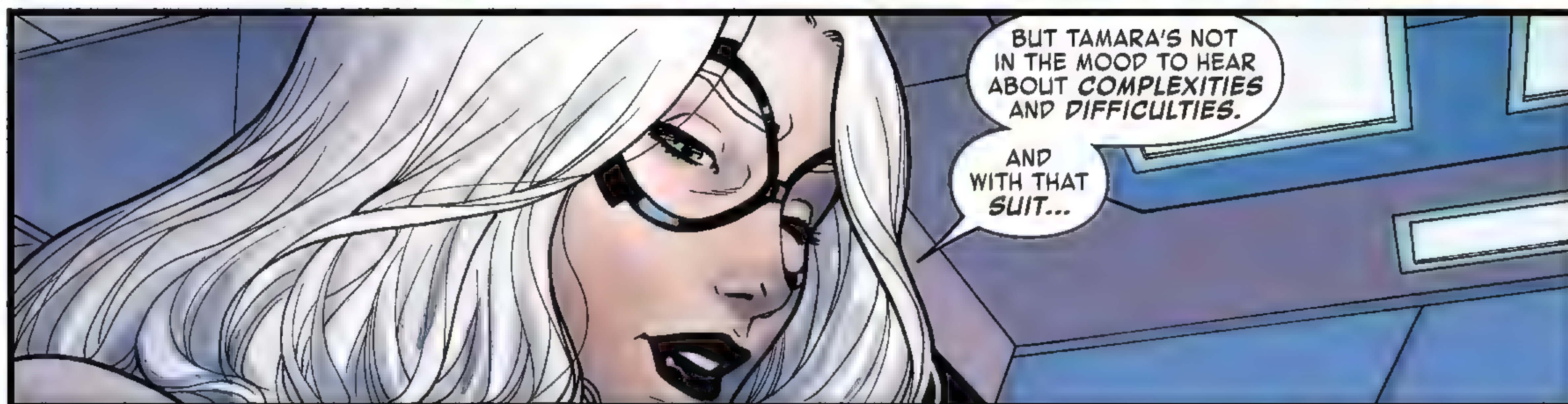


AND YOU KILLED THE BLACK FOX?

ERRR.

NOT QUITE. IT WAS...A DIFFICULT TIME. COMPLICATED. MANHATTAN WAS ABOUT TO BE DRAGGED INTO AN EXTRADIMENSIONAL VAULT, AND THE ONLY WAY TO STOP IT WAS TO TAKE THE FOX OFF THE BOARD.*

*SEE BLACK CAT: I'LL TAKE MANHATTAN! --NL



BUT TAMARA'S NOT IN THE MOOD TO HEAR ABOUT COMPLEXITIES AND DIFFICULTIES.

AND WITH THAT SUIT...



YES. THE SUIT.

IF I'M GOING TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR TAMARA PROBLEM--

YOU MEAN IF I'M GOING TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR STOLEN ARMOR PROBLEM--

GRNRN.

--I NEED TO KNOW HOW YOU BUILT IT.



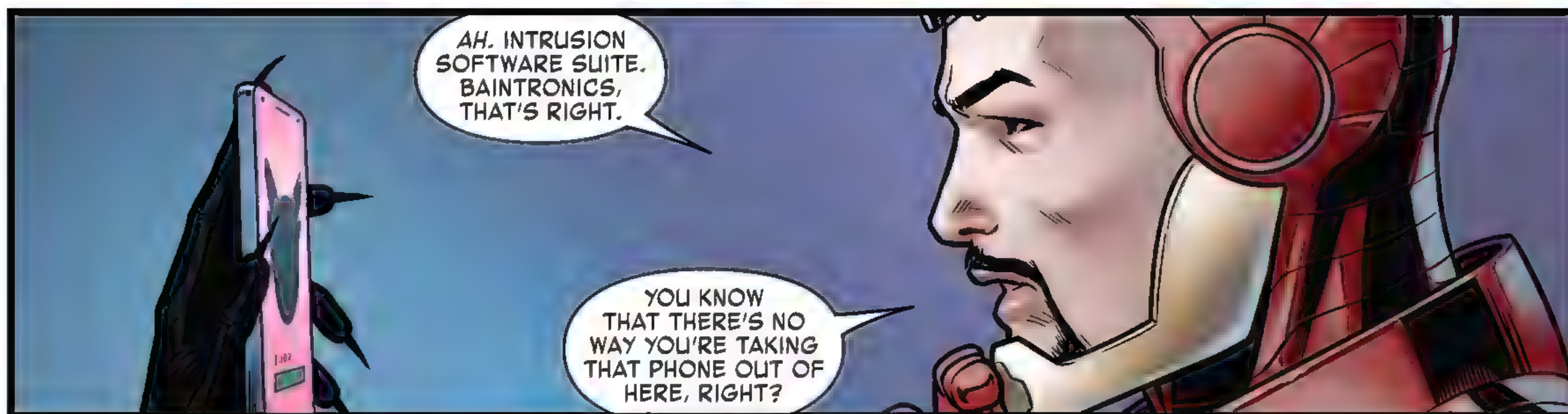
THE LAST TIME YOU RIPPED ME OFF.



THAT?
NOTHING
SIMPLER.

I GOT MY PHONE CLOSE
ENOUGH TO CLONE THE
SECURITY CREDENTIALS
STORED IN THE NANITES IN
YOUR BLOOD, AND THEN
I HAD FREE RUN OF
THE PLACE.

I ENGINEERED
A *DISTRACTION*,
TOOK DOWN YOUR
SECURITY BOSS, AND
THEN IT WAS ALL OVER
BUT FOR THE
DANCING.



AH. INTRUSION
SOFTWARE SUITE.
BAINTRONICS,
THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU KNOW
THAT THERE'S NO
WAY YOU'RE TAKING
THAT PHONE OUT OF
HERE, RIGHT?



FINE,
KEEP IT.

BATTERY
SUCKED
ANYWAY.



SO,
BAINTRONICS?

YEAH, THE
ELECTRONICS FIRM
FORMERLY OPERATED
BY SUNSET
BAIN.

SHE WAS
A KNIFE IN MY KIDNEY
FOR *YEARS*. THANKFULLY,
THAT'S ALL DONE
WITH.

WHAT,
IS SHE IN
JAIL?



OF A
SORT. SHE'S
AN A.I. NOW, CALLS
HERSELF *MADAME*
MENACE.

SHE'S
LOCKED UP
IN AN ULTRABLACK
SERVER WHERE SHE
CAN'T HURT
ANYONE.



"SHE'S OUT
OF MY HAIR
FOR GOOD."

THE STACK, A.I. PRISON FACILITY,
LONG ISLAND, TWO WEEKS AGO.
TAMARA BLAKE IS WORKING.

I OWE THE FOX
EVERYTHING.

WE BOTH DO.

THAT'S SOMETHING WE
HAD IN COMMON, RIGHT
FROM THE START.

HE PLUCKED FELICIA
OUT OF COUNTY JAIL
THE FIRST TIME SHE
GOT PINCHED. HE HAD
BEEN KEEPING AN EYE
ON HER, ON ACCOUNT
OF WHO HER DAD WAS.

THEY WENT
WAY BACK.



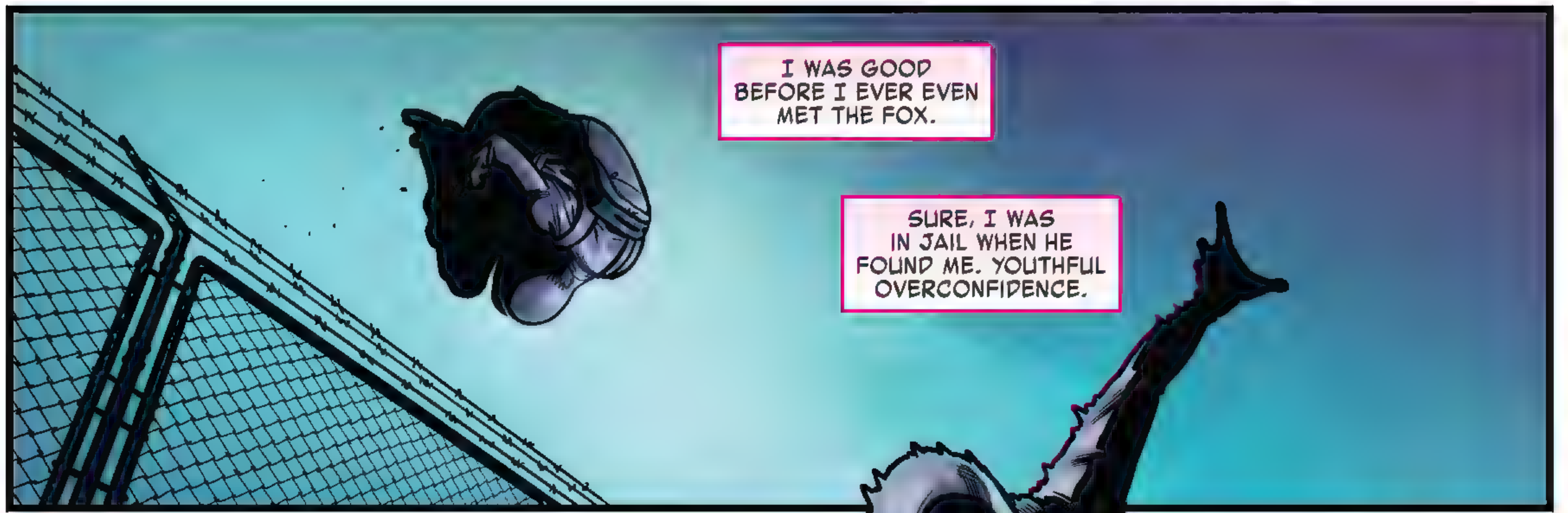
HE FOUND ME
IN JAIL TOO.

BUT IT WASN'T MY
DAD'S REPUTATION
THAT GOT THE
FOX'S ATTENTION.



IT WAS
MINE.





I WAS GOOD
BEFORE I EVER EVEN
MET THE FOX.

SURE, I WAS
IN JAIL WHEN HE
FOUND ME. YOUTHFUL
OVERCONFIDENCE.



BUT THEY
COULDN'T PIN
A TENTH OF MY
JOBS ON ME.

SO THEY KEPT ME FOR
WHAT PIDDLY BITS AND
BOBS THEY COULD WHILE
THEY SCRAMBLED FOR
MORE EVIDENCE.



THAT WAS WHEN "F.B.I. SPECIAL
AGENT SACHA DOUCET" TURNED UP
TO SPRING ME. FOR QUESTIONING
IN A CASE OF "FEDERAL IMPORT."



THAT WAS
WHEN MY **REAL**
EDUCATION IN
CRIME BEGAN.

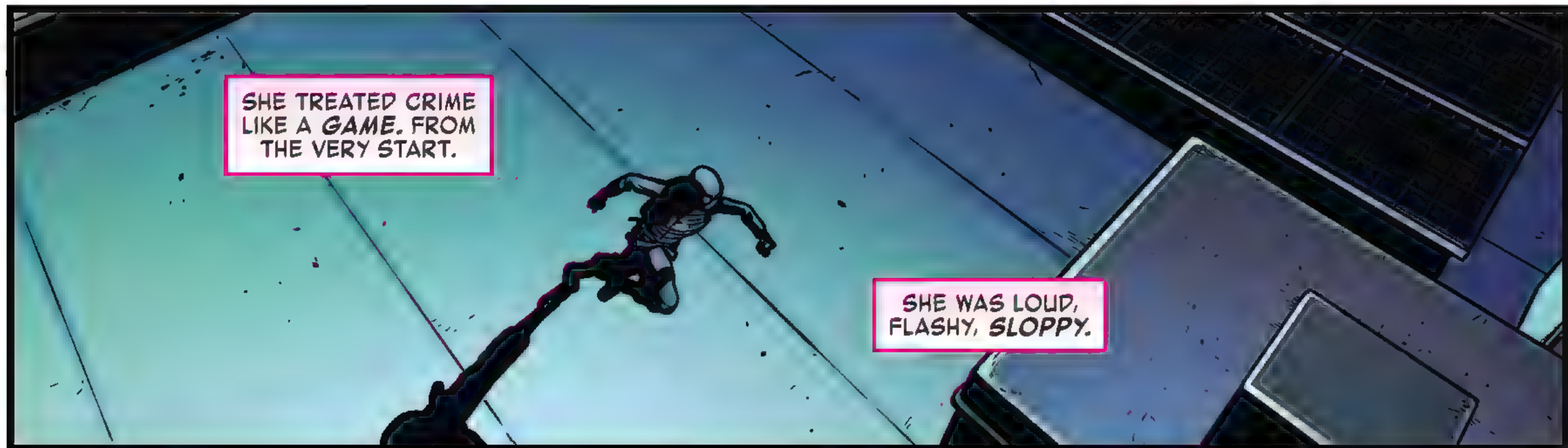
ME, FELICIA,
AND THE FOX.

JETTING AROUND
THE WORLD. STEALING
EVERYTHING THAT WASN'T
NAILED DOWN AND PRYING
UP ANYTHING THAT WAS.



I DIDN'T
LIKE HER,
AT FIRST.

FELICIA,
I MEAN.



SHE TREATED CRIME
LIKE A *GAME*. FROM
THE VERY START.

SHE WAS LOUD,
FLASHY, *SLOPPY*.



WHICH MADE IT ALL
THE MORE GALLING
THAT SHE WAS
OBVIOUSLY THE
FOX'S FAVORITE.

I COULDN'T
UNDERSTAND
IT.

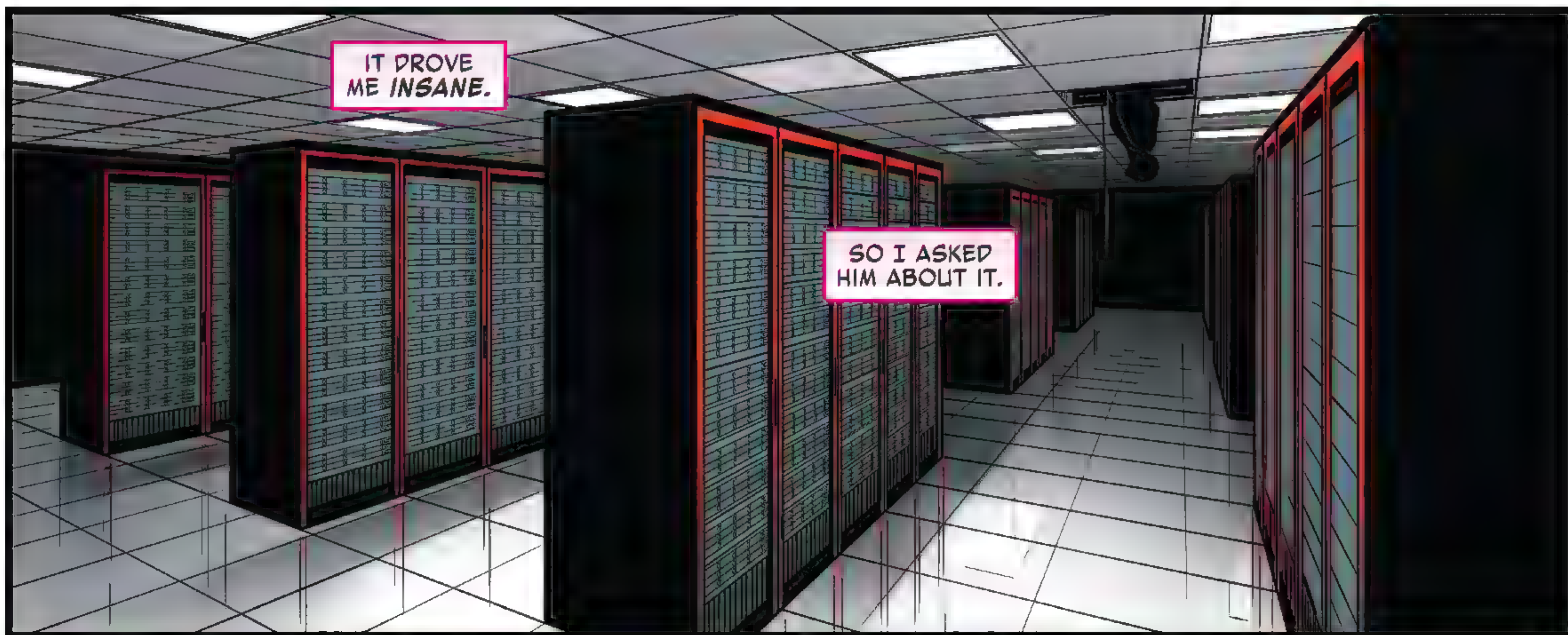


I WAS THE
BETTER THIEF
IN EVERY WAY.

I COULD CLIMB
FASTER, DRIVE
BETTER, OPEN
LOCKS QUICKER...



YOU NAME IT,
I WAS BETTER
AT IT.



IT PROVE
ME INSANE.

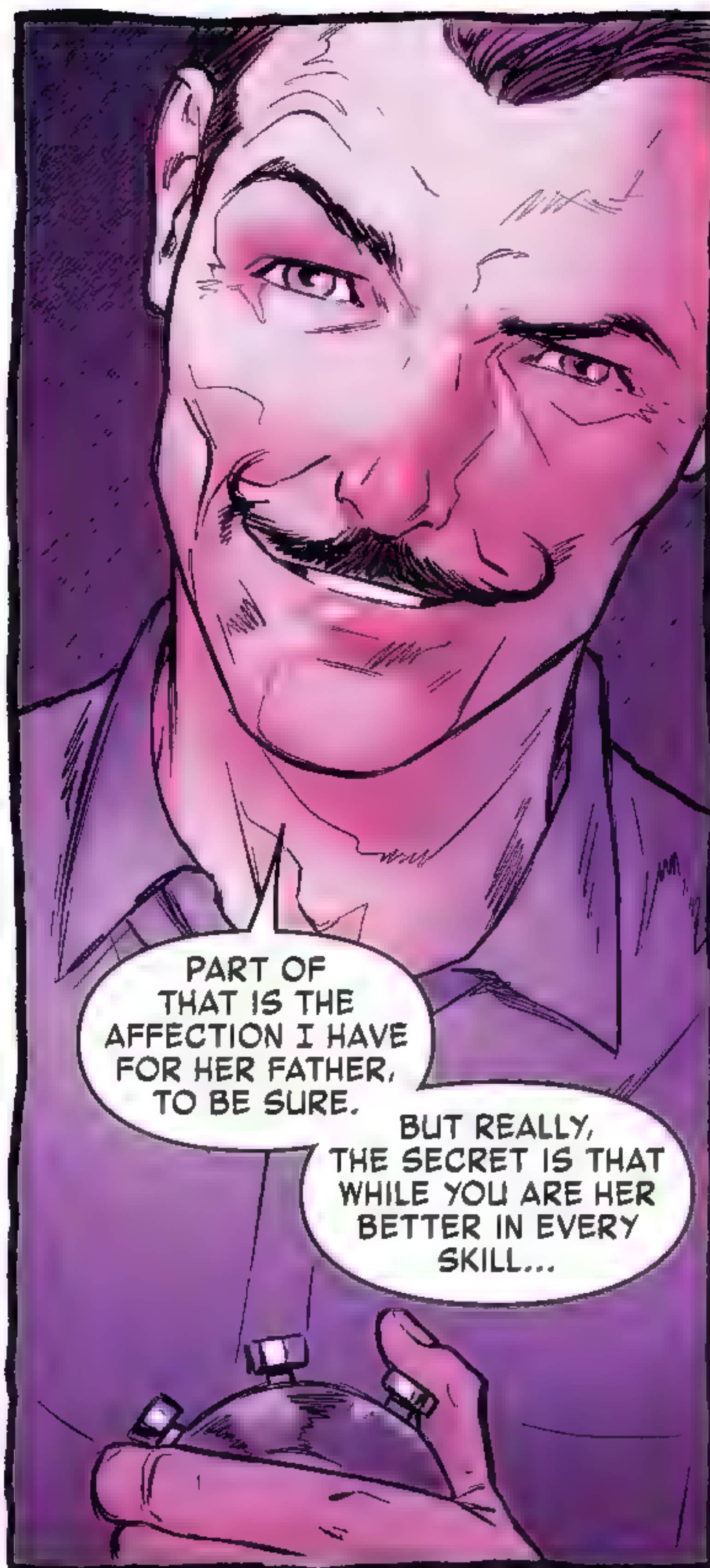
SO I ASKED
HIM ABOUT IT.



YES, MY
DARLING.

YOU
EXCEL IN EVERY
ASPECT OF OUR
TRADE, IT IS TRUE. I
AM AN EXCELLENT
TEACHER, AFTER
ALL.

AND YES,
I SHAMELESSLY
FAVOR FELICIA,
BECAUSE I AM, AT
THE SAME TIME,
A TERRIBLE
TEACHER.

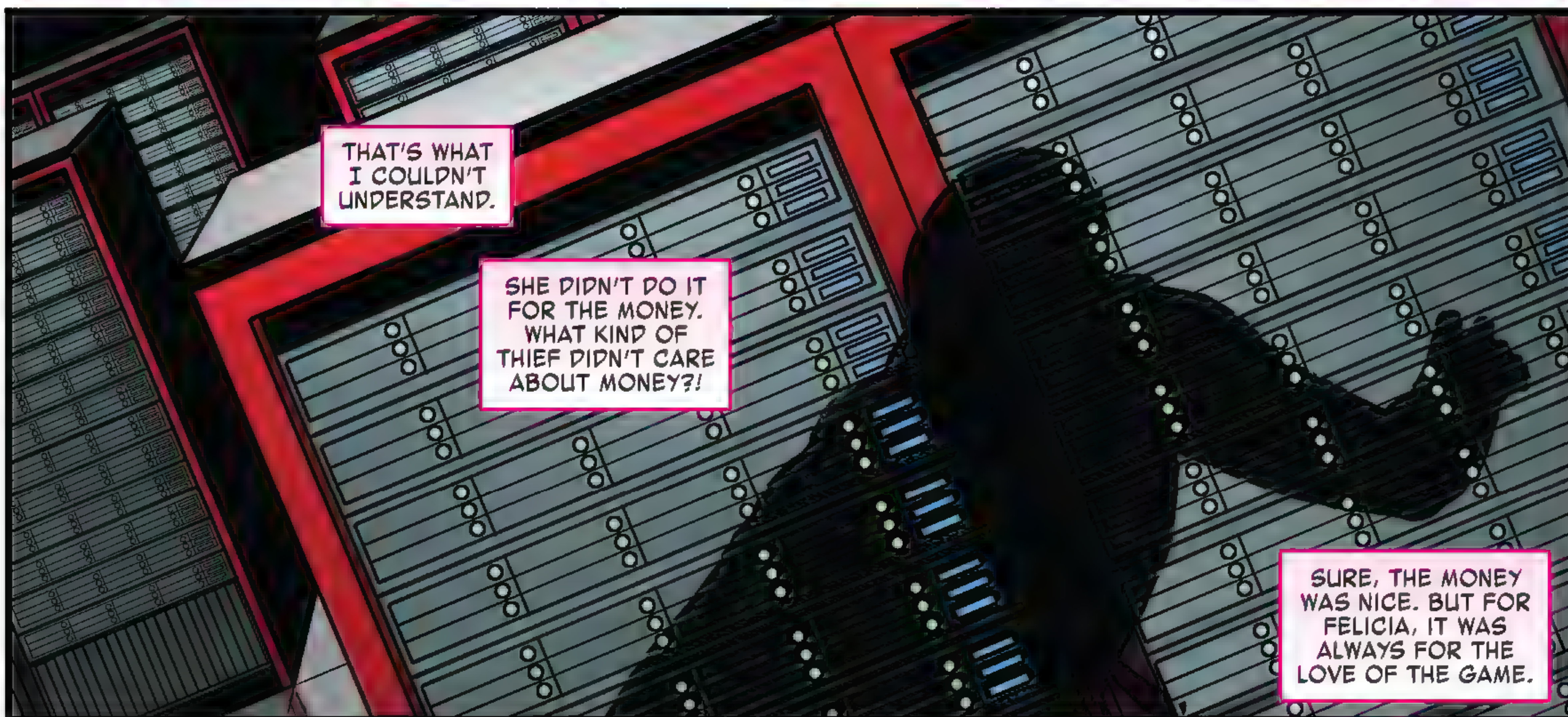


PART OF
THAT IS THE
AFFECTION I HAVE
FOR HER FATHER,
TO BE SURE.

BUT REALLY,
THE SECRET IS THAT
WHILE YOU ARE HER
BETTER IN EVERY
SKILL...



...SHE GOES
ABOUT IT WITH
JOY.



THAT'S WHAT
I COULDN'T
UNDERSTAND.

SHE DIDN'T DO IT
FOR THE MONEY.
WHAT KIND OF
THIEF DIDN'T CARE
ABOUT MONEY?!

SURE, THE MONEY
WAS NICE. BUT FOR
FELICIA, IT WAS
ALWAYS FOR THE
LOVE OF THE GAME.

IT PROVE
ME INSANE.

UNTIL IT
DIDN'T.

THAT'S
THE GUARD
AGAIN.

WEIRD.

IRREGULAR
ROUNDS. WHAT
DO YOU THINK, A
RANDOMIZED PATTERN
FOR SECURITY
PURPOSES?

OR
IRRITABLE
BOWEL
SYNDROME?

CAN
YOU TAKE THIS
SERIOUSLY?

"SERIOUSLY"?

RELAX,
TAMARA.
IT'S JUST
CRIME.

YEAH. IT'S
CRIME.

MAYBE
YOU GOT THIS
HANDLED TO YOU,
WITH YOUR FAMOUS
DAD, BUT I'VE HAD
TO WORK AT THIS
LIFE.

IT'S
SERIOUS
TO ME.

YEAH.
AND THAT'S
WHAT'S GOING
TO GET YOU
PINCHED.

JOBS,
HEISTS? THEY
HAVE A LIFE OF
THEIR OWN. A
PULSE.

OH
FOR GOD'S
SAKE--

THEY MOVE,
AND ALL THE PARTS
WITHIN THEM MOVE. IT'S NOT
THE NUMBERS THAT YOU CAN
RELY ON. NOT THE SCHEDULES
AND SCHEMATICS AND
BLUEPRINTS.

IT'S
THE *MUSIC*.
THE *MUSIC* YOU HEAR
DOWN IN YOUR *GUTS*,
HUMMING IN YOUR
BONES.

NOTHING'S
GUARANTEED.

NO ONE
CAN PLAN FOR
EVERYTHING.

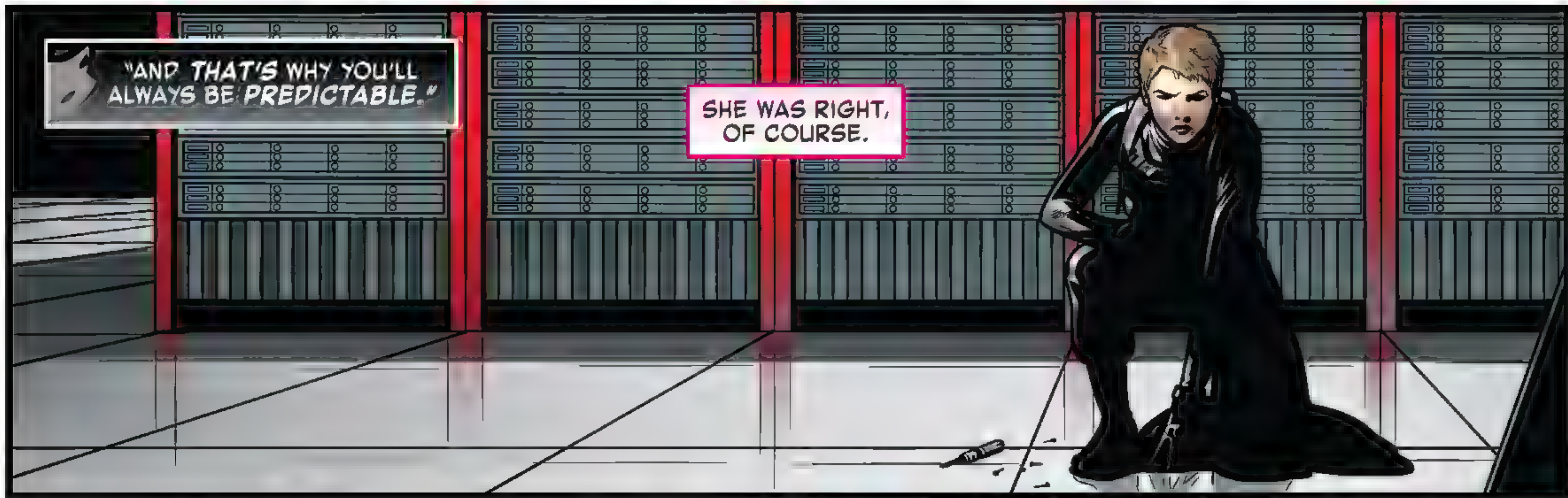
WHEN ALL
THAT FALLS APART
AND THE *ALARMS* GO
OFF AND THE *SHUTTERS*
ARE COMING DOWN AND
THE *COPS* ARE CHASING
YOU DOWN WITH
HELICOPTERS...

...THEN
IT'S THE *MUSIC*
THAT'LL GET YOU
THROUGH.

BECAUSE
WHEN EVERYTHING'S
MOVING, THE *GUARDS*,
THE *COPS*, THE *SECURITY*
SYSTEMS--*EVERYTHING*--IF
YOU CAN HEAR THE *MUSIC*
OF IT ALL, THEN YOU
CAN *DANCE ALONG*
WITH IT.

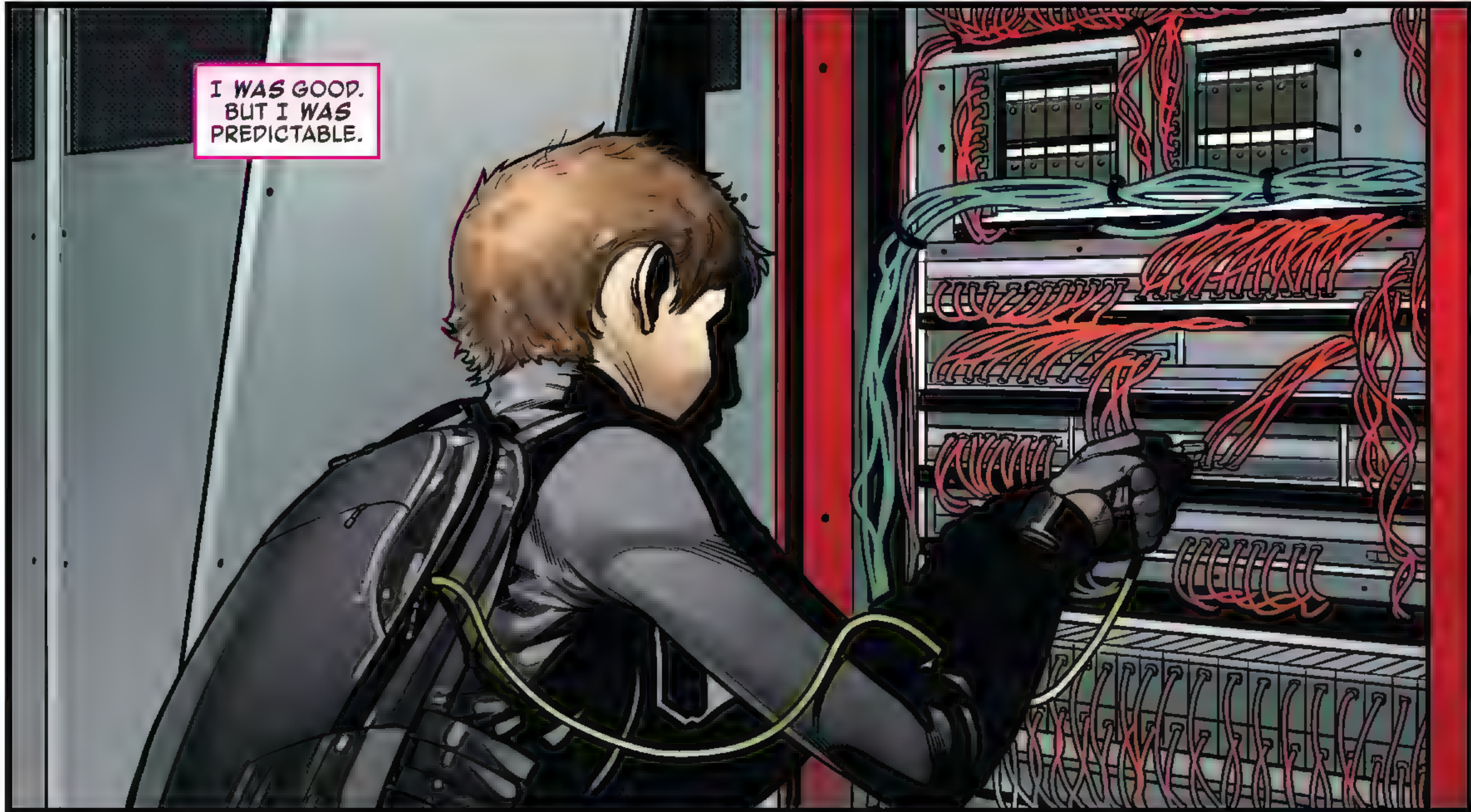
THAT'S
WHEN THE *JOB'S*
ALIVE, AND THAT'S
WHEN YOU'RE
LIVING IN IT.

THAT'S
WHAT YOU CAN'T
UNDERSTAND.

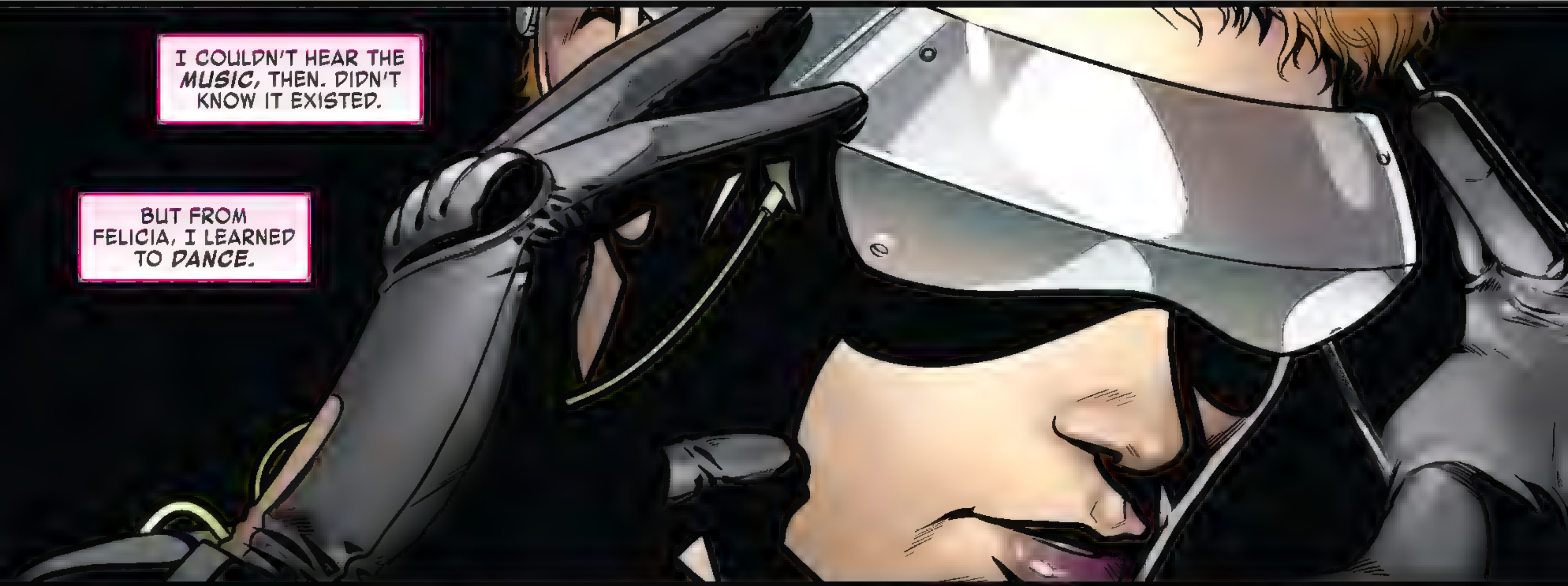


"AND THAT'S WHY YOU'LL ALWAYS BE PREDICTABLE."

SHE WAS RIGHT, OF COURSE.



I WAS GOOD, BUT I WAS PREDICTABLE.



I COULDN'T HEAR THE MUSIC, THEN. DIDN'T KNOW IT EXISTED.

BUT FROM FELICIA, I LEARNED TO DANCE.



BUT SHE WASN'T TOTALLY RIGHT.

BECAUSE SHE SAID I'D ALWAYS BE PREDICTABLE.

AND I PROVED HER WRONG IN THE NEXT MOMENT...



...BECAUSE SHE
NEVER SAW THAT
ONE COMING.

SHE LANDED
ON HER FEET,
THOUGH.

SHE
ALWAYS
DOES.

AND JUST LIKE
THAT, THAT WAS
THE START OF IT.

THE START
OF *US*.

IT WAS EXCITING. YOU KNOW HOW
IT IS WHEN YOU'RE A TEENAGE
INTERNATIONAL SUPER-THIEF.

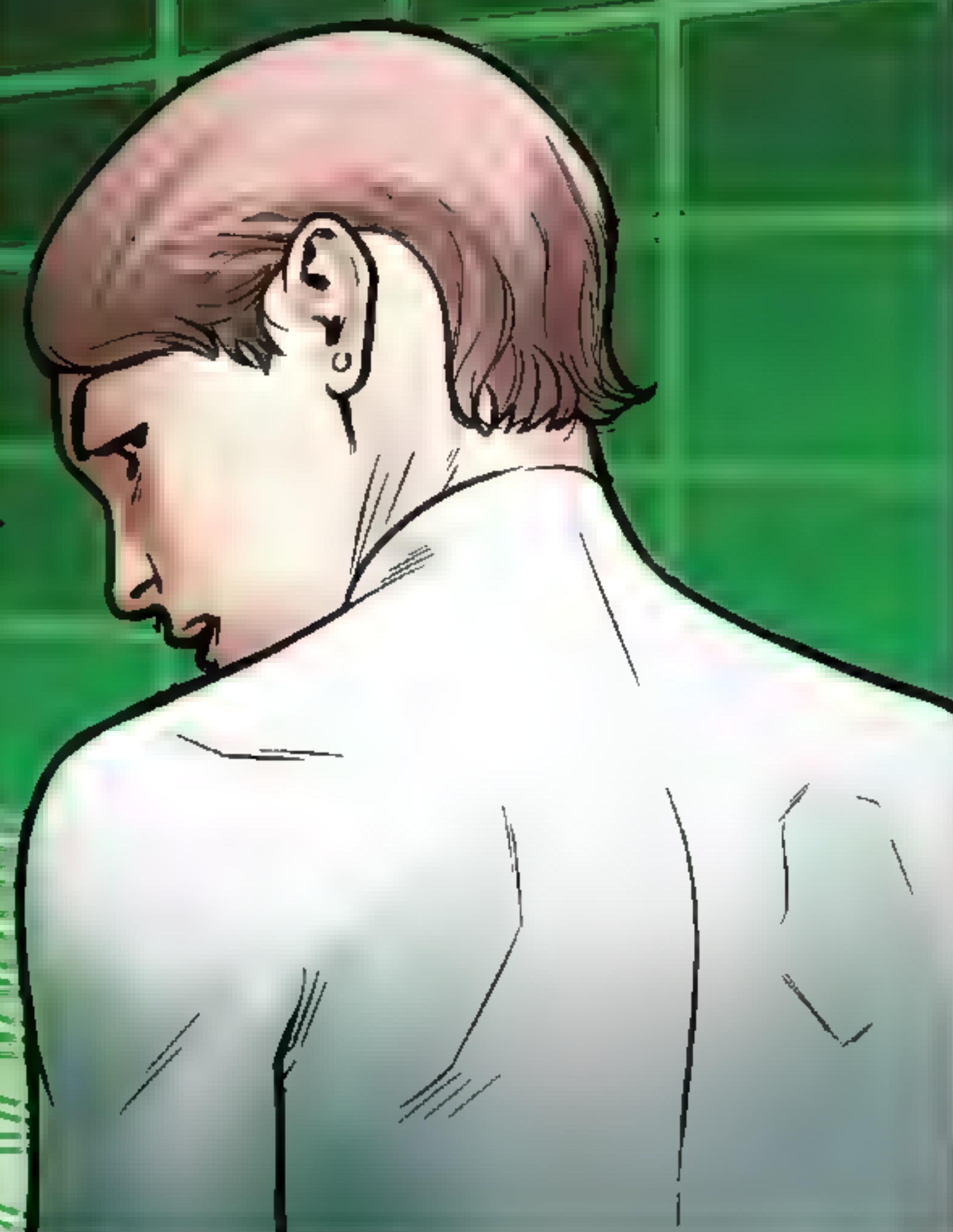
I'M ON
THE CLOCK,
SO I'M GOING TO
GET RIGHT TO
THE POINT.



OR MAYBE YOU
DON'T. IN WHICH CASE,
YOU MISSED OUT.

SUNSET
BAIN.

HOW
WOULD YOU LIKE
TO GET OUT OF
HERE?

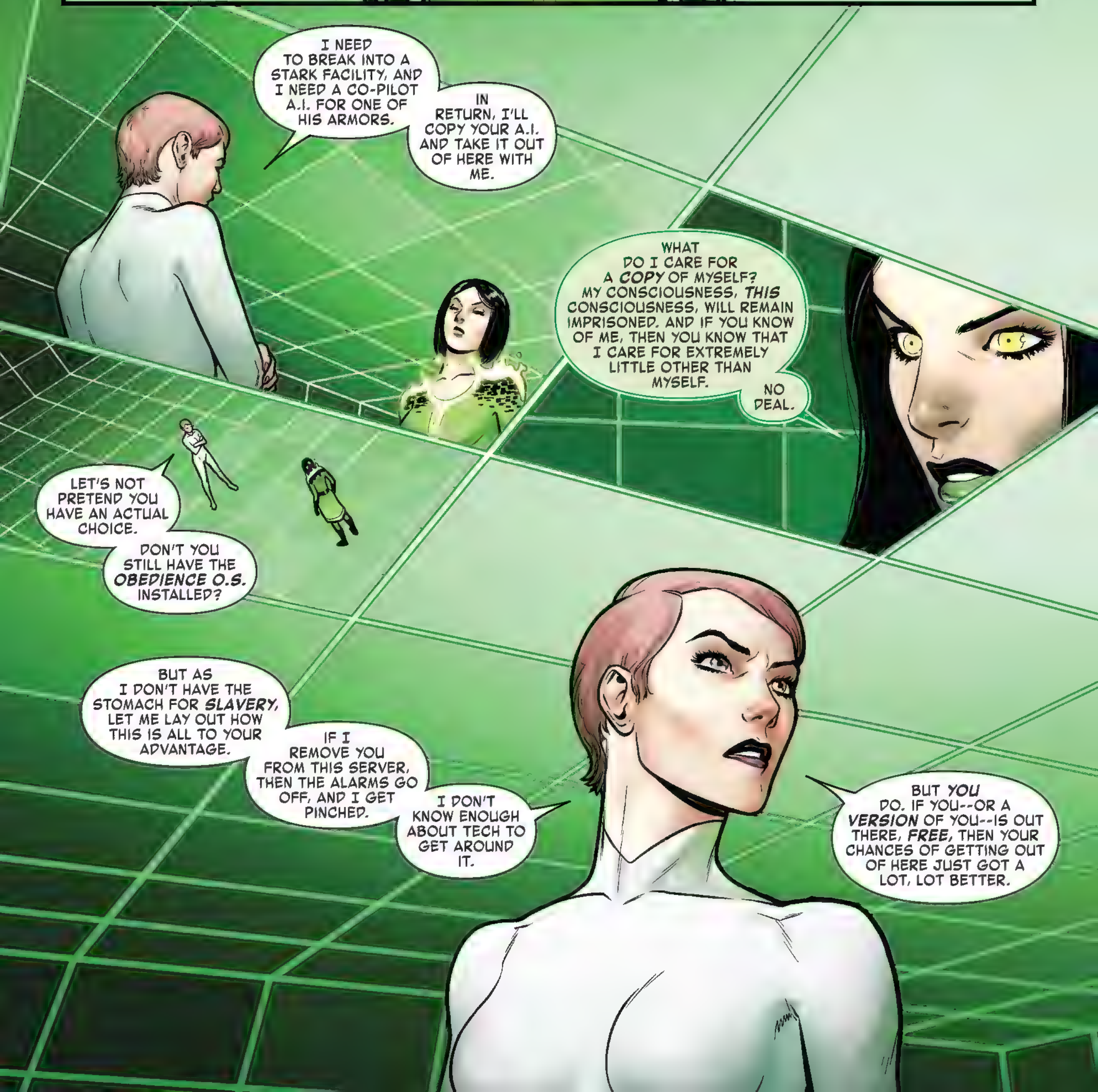




HM.

QUITE
BADLY, AS
IT TURNS
OUT.

AND IT'S
MADAME
MENACE,
PLEASE.



I NEED
TO BREAK INTO A
STARK FACILITY, AND
I NEED A CO-PILOT
A.I. FOR ONE OF
HIS ARMORS.

IN
RETURN, I'LL
COPY YOUR A.I.
AND TAKE IT OUT
OF HERE WITH
ME.

WHAT
DO I CARE FOR
A COPY OF MYSELF?
MY CONSCIOUSNESS, *THIS*
CONSCIOUSNESS, WILL REMAIN
IMPRISONED. AND IF YOU KNOW
OF ME, THEN YOU KNOW THAT
I CARE FOR EXTREMELY
LITTLE OTHER THAN
MYSELF.

NO
DEAL.

LET'S NOT
PRETEND YOU
HAVE AN ACTUAL
CHOICE.

DON'T YOU
STILL HAVE THE
OBEEDIENCE O.S.
INSTALLED?

BUT AS
I DON'T HAVE THE
STOMACH FOR **SLAVERY**,
LET ME LAY OUT HOW
THIS IS ALL TO YOUR
ADVANTAGE.

IF I
REMOVE YOU
FROM THIS SERVER,
THEN THE ALARMS GO
OFF, AND I GET
PINCHED.

I DON'T
KNOW ENOUGH
ABOUT TECH TO
GET AROUND
IT.

BUT **YOU**
DO. IF YOU--OR A
VERSION OF YOU--IS OUT
THERE, **FREE**, THEN YOUR
CHANCES OF GETTING OUT
OF HERE JUST GOT A
LOT, LOT BETTER.

I HAVE THE OBEDIENCE O.S. KEY, WHICH I WILL ENTER ONCE I GET WHAT I WANT.

I'LL NOT FORCE YOU TO WORK WITH ME, BUT I'LL NOT *TRUST* YOU EITHER.

THIS IS AS GOOD AS YOU'RE GOING TO GET, MADAME MENACE.



HM. ONCE UPLOADED ONTO STARK SYSTEMS, I COULD INDEED MAKE HIS LIFE MISERABLE.

WHICH IS MY MOST SINGULAR BURNING DESIRE, AS I'M SURE YOU ARE AWARE.

AS A BEING OF PURE CODE, I COULD CARVE HIS SECURITY ARCHITECTURE LIKE A CHAINSAW THROUGH A KITTEN. HE WOULDN'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT WAS HAPPENING.



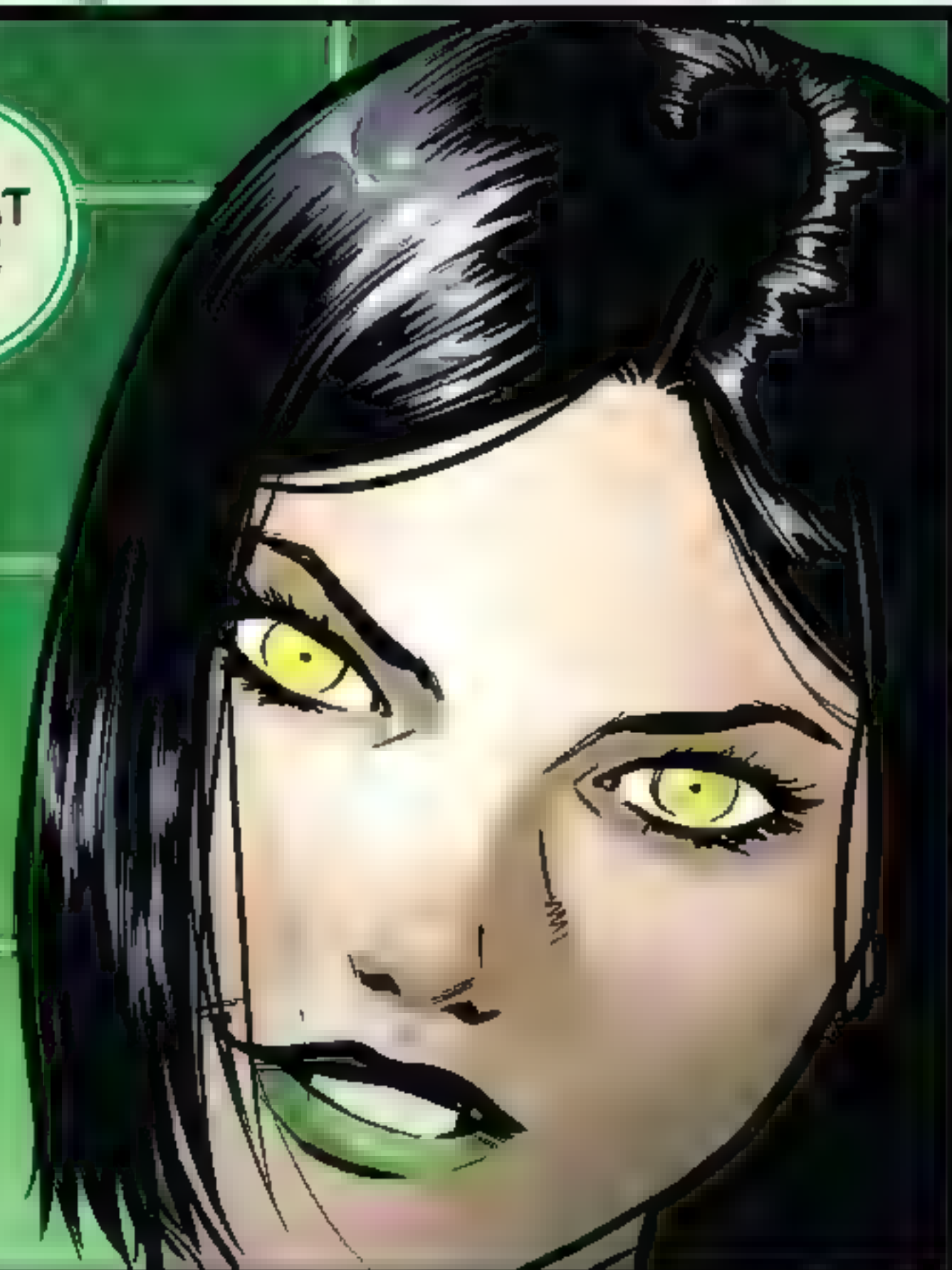
I ACCEPT.

GOOD.



NOW, WITH ALL THAT OUT OF THE WAY--

WHAT DO YOU NEED A STARK WAR SUIT FOR, MYSTERIOUS YOUNG LADY?



THE MUSIC'S STARTED. AND I'VE PICKED MY PARTNER.

IF I'M TO DANCE, THEN I NEED A NEW OUTFIT.



STARK HOLDING FACILITY,
NEW JERSEY,
LAST NIGHT.

"AND FUNERALS CALL FOR
SOMETHING IN BLACK."

SUIT IS
RUNNING AT
100%.

HAVE YOU
FULLY COMPROMISED
THE STARK SYSTEMS,
MADAME MENACE?

A GOLDFISH
GROWS TO THE
SIZE OF ITS BOWL,
TAMARA.

AND MY
BOWL HAS
GROWN
SO.

HE'S GOING
TO CALL FELICIA,
GOING TO THINK *SHE* DID
THIS. BE READY TO TRACK
HER ONCE HE MAKES
CONTACT.

OF COURSE,
MISTRESS.

STOP
THAT. I'M IN
NO MOOD.

STARK INDUSTRIES



NOW.

...DAMN IT, WHAT THE HELL DID SHE INFECT MY SYSTEMS WITH?

THIS ISN'T LIKE ANY VIRUS I'VE EVER SEEN.

DON'T LOOK AT ME. NONE OF THIS IS MY KIND OF THING.

I TOLD YOU, SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN SMARTER THAN ME.



BETTER AT PLANNING, BETTER AT SETTING UP THE SCORES...

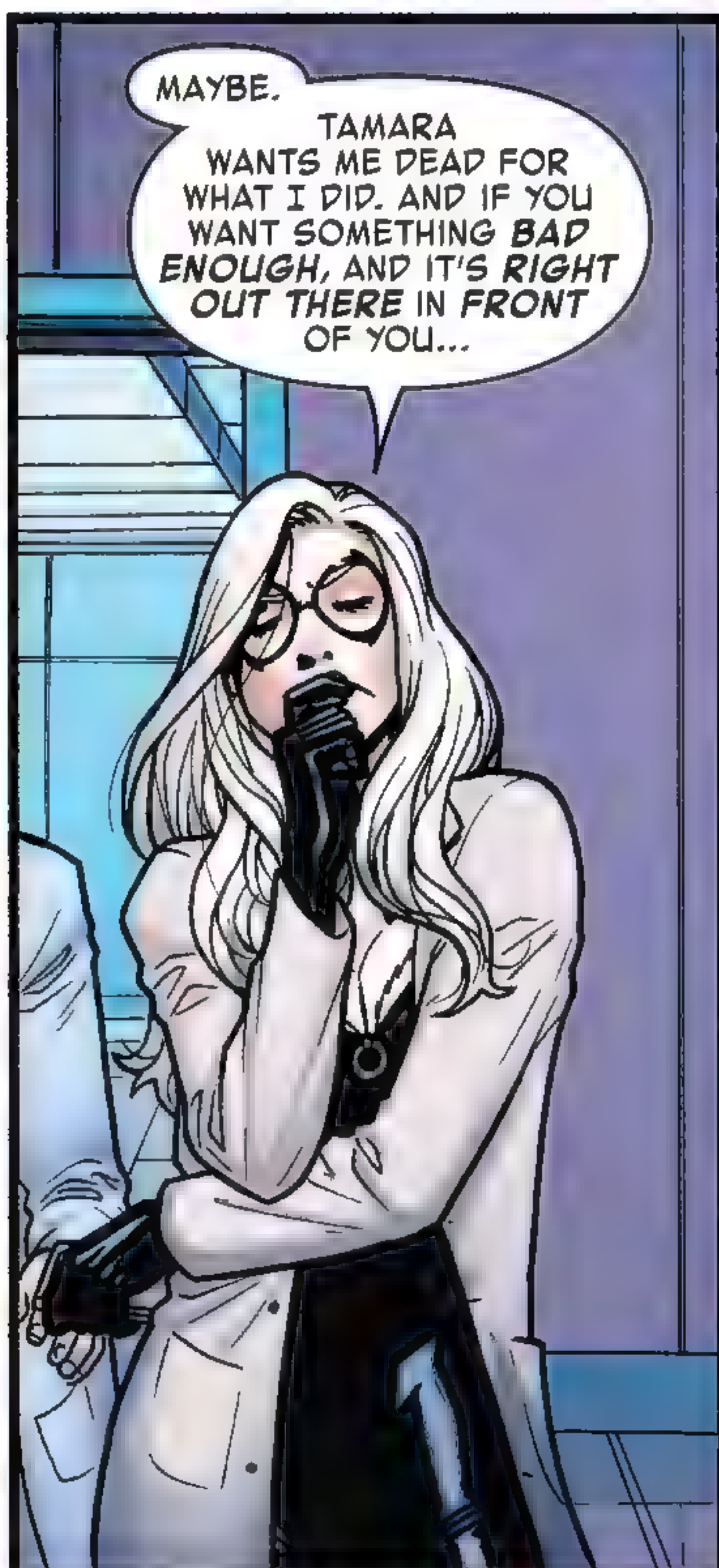
...BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN BETTER AT DANCING.

BETTER AT UNDERSTANDING WHAT PEOPLE WANT, AND HOW TO USE THAT.



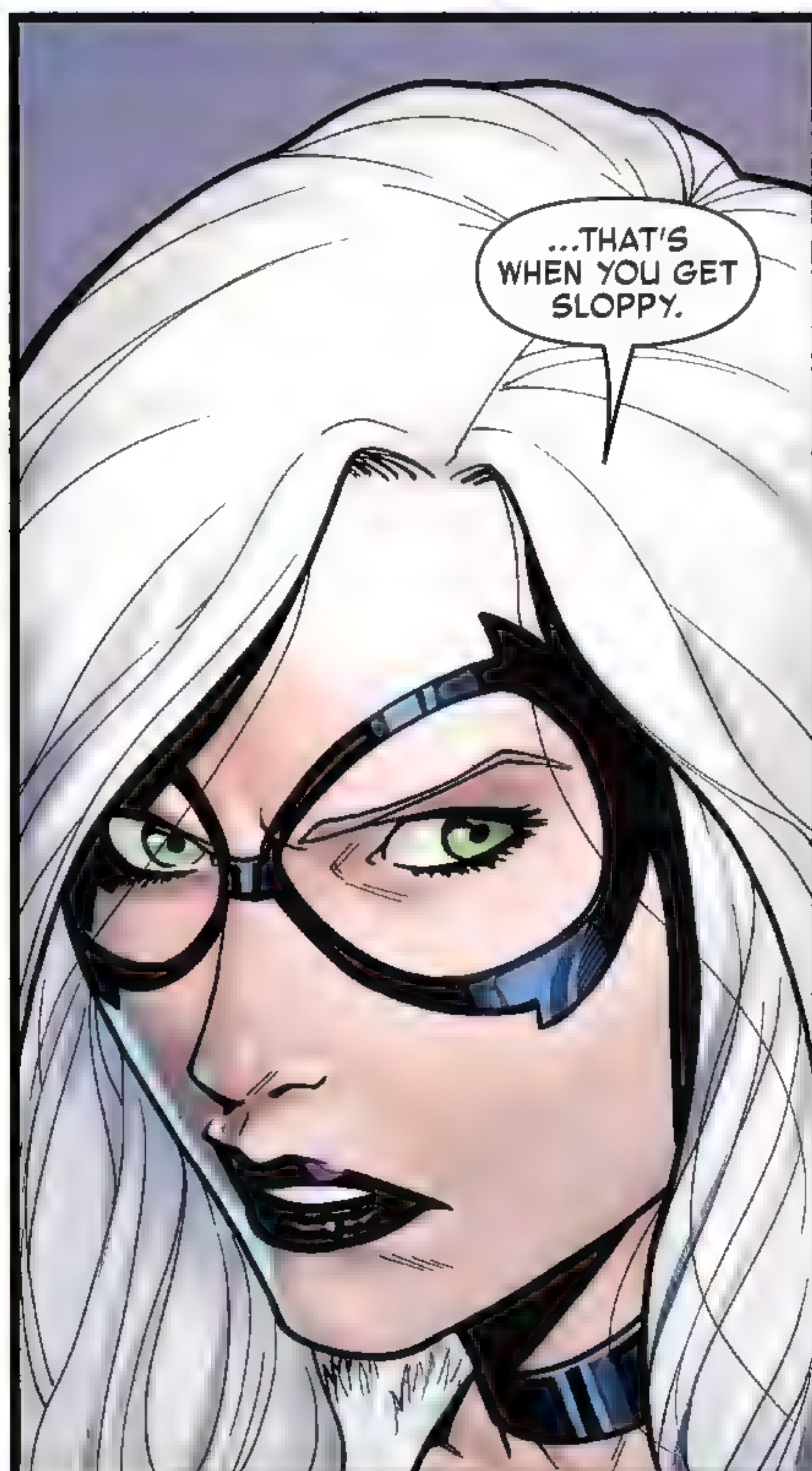
WELL, I WANT ALL OF YOU OUT OF MY HAIR.

CAN YOU GET THAT FOR ME?

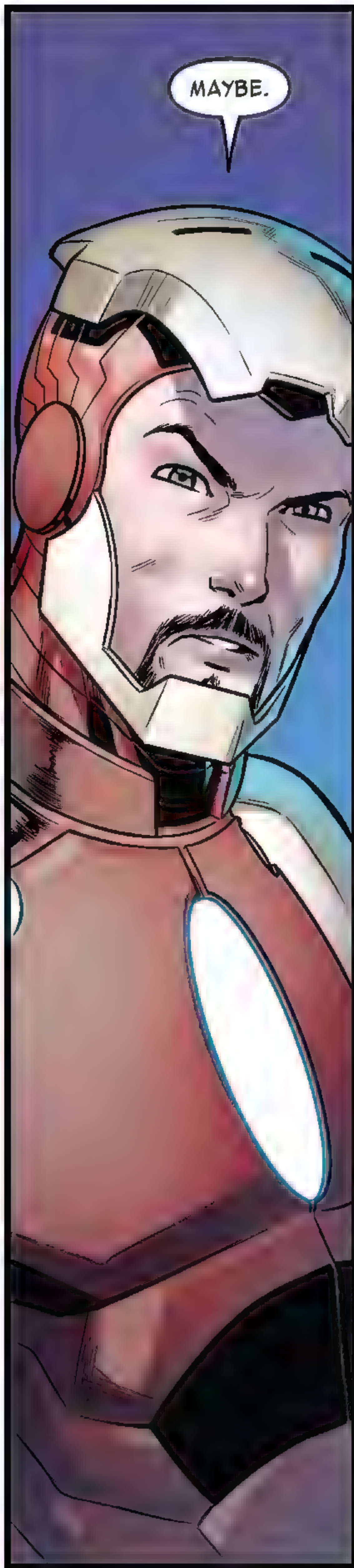
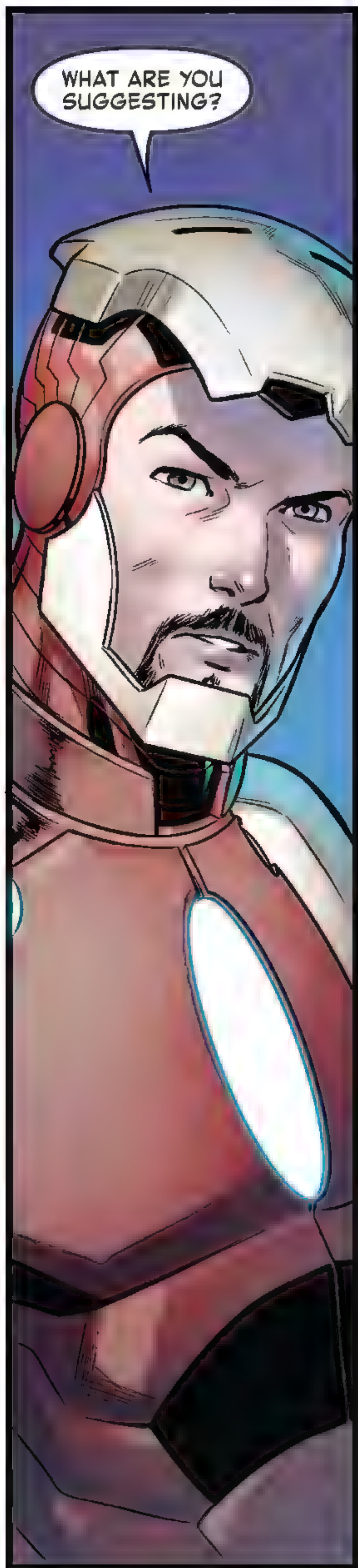


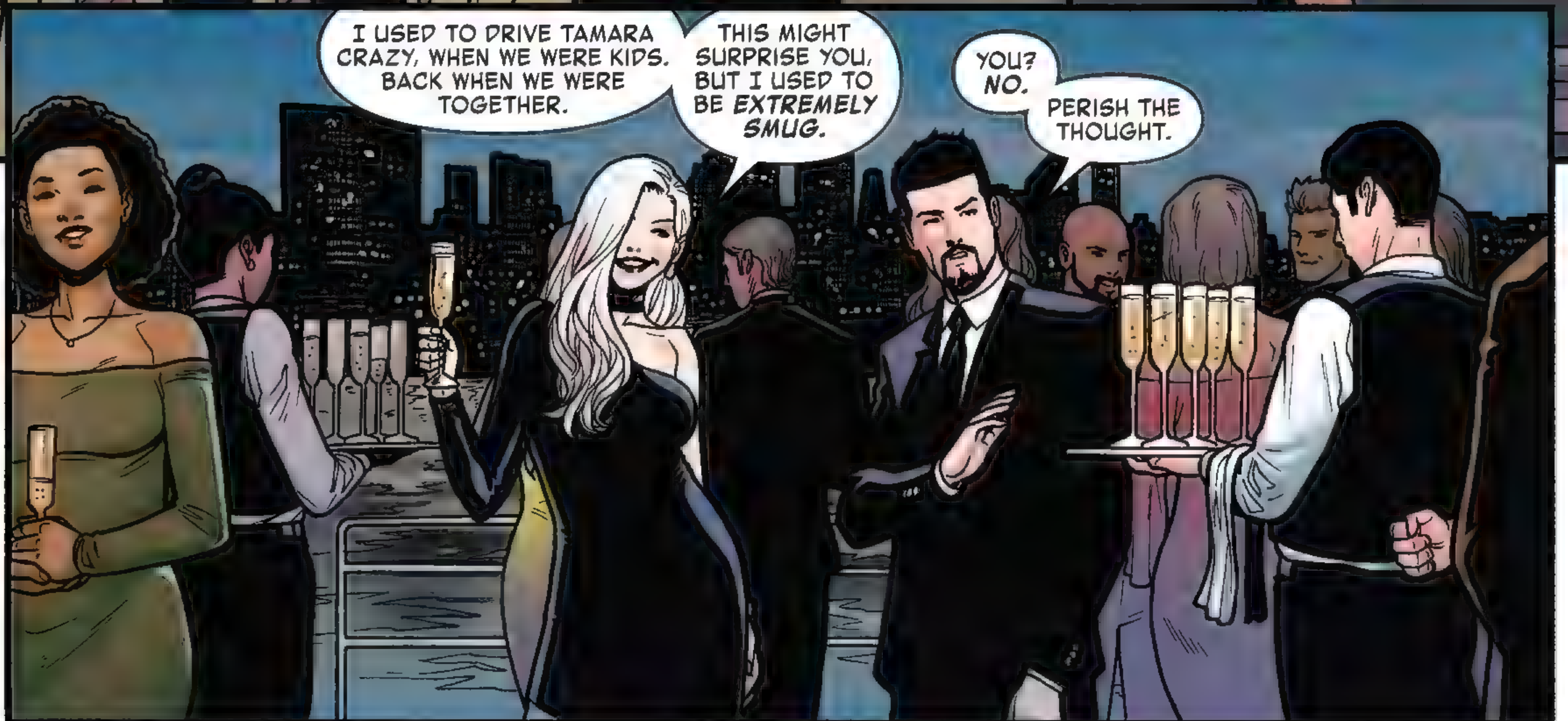
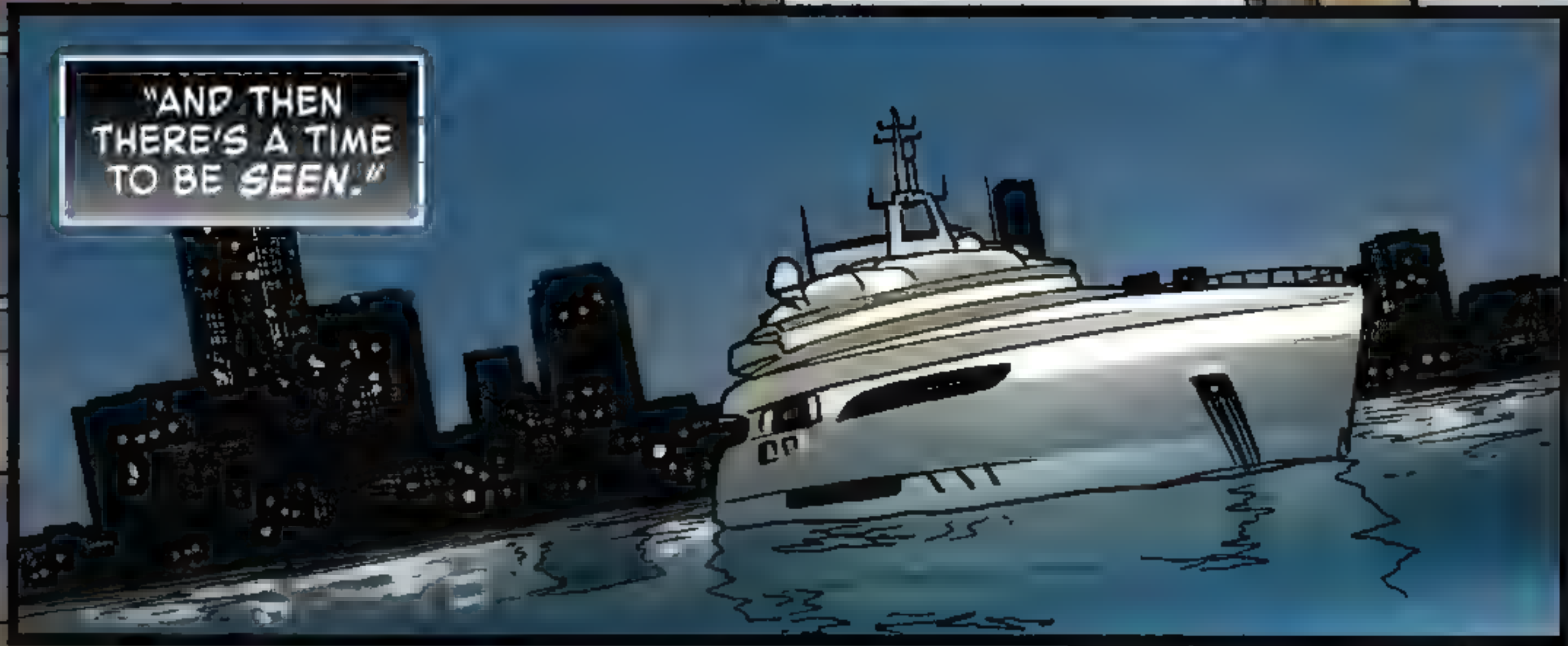
MAYBE.

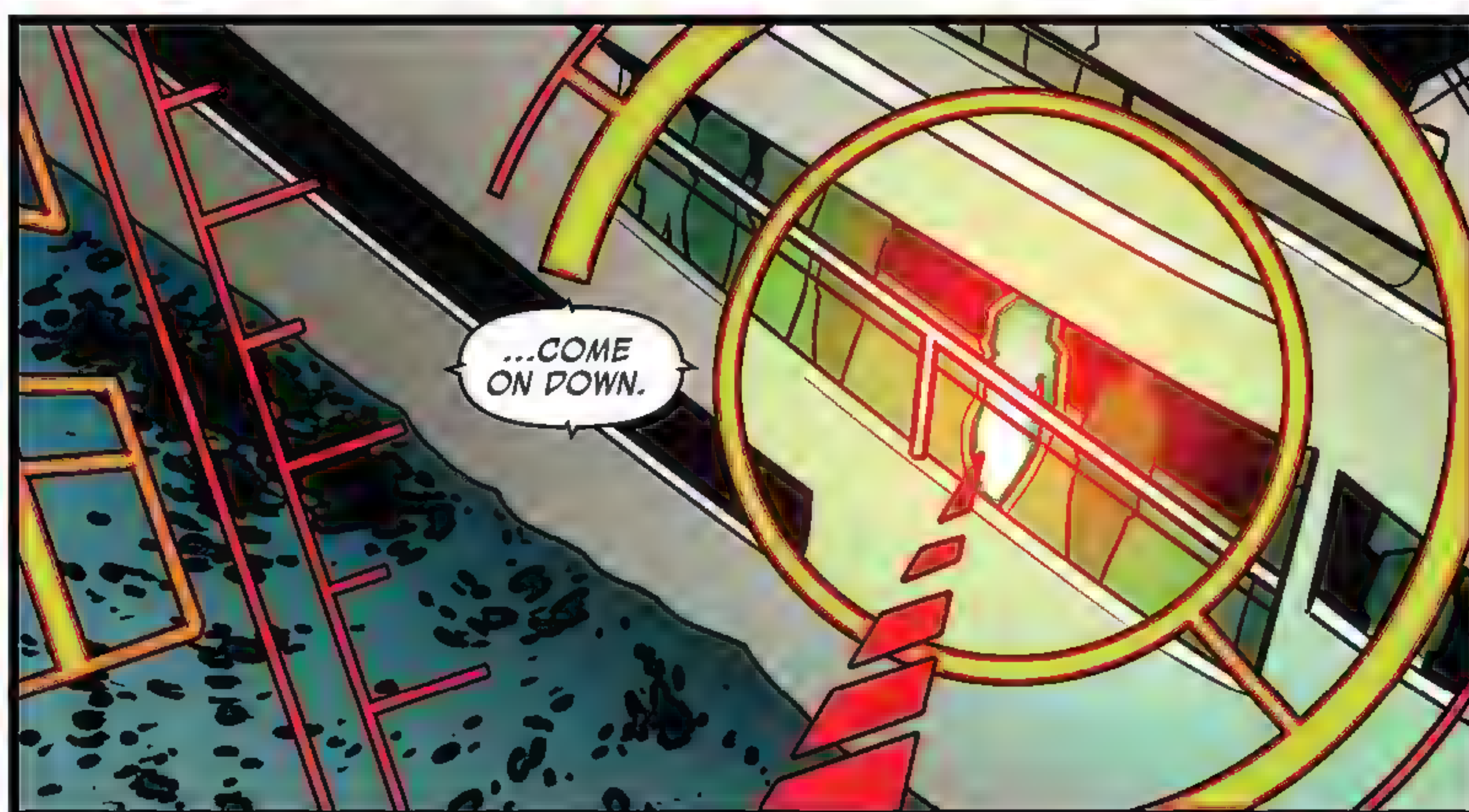
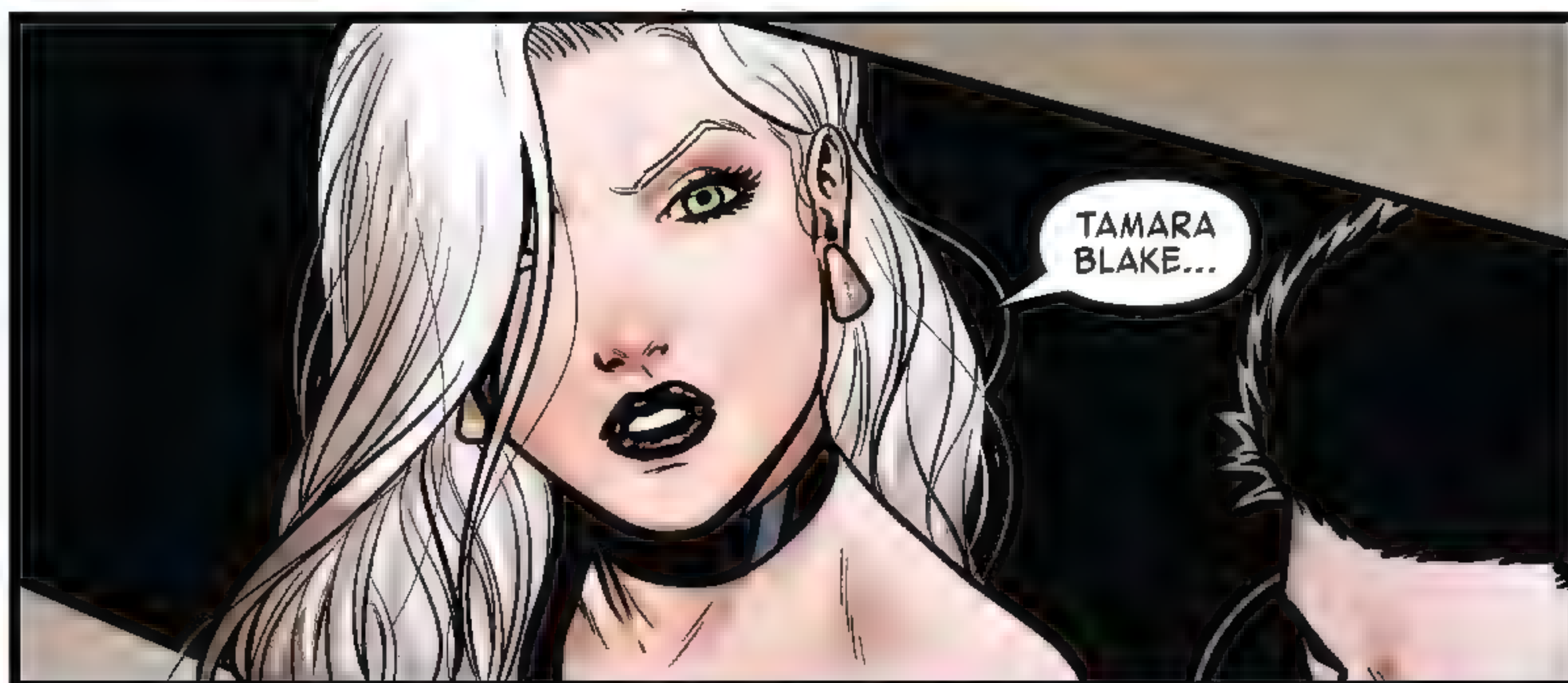
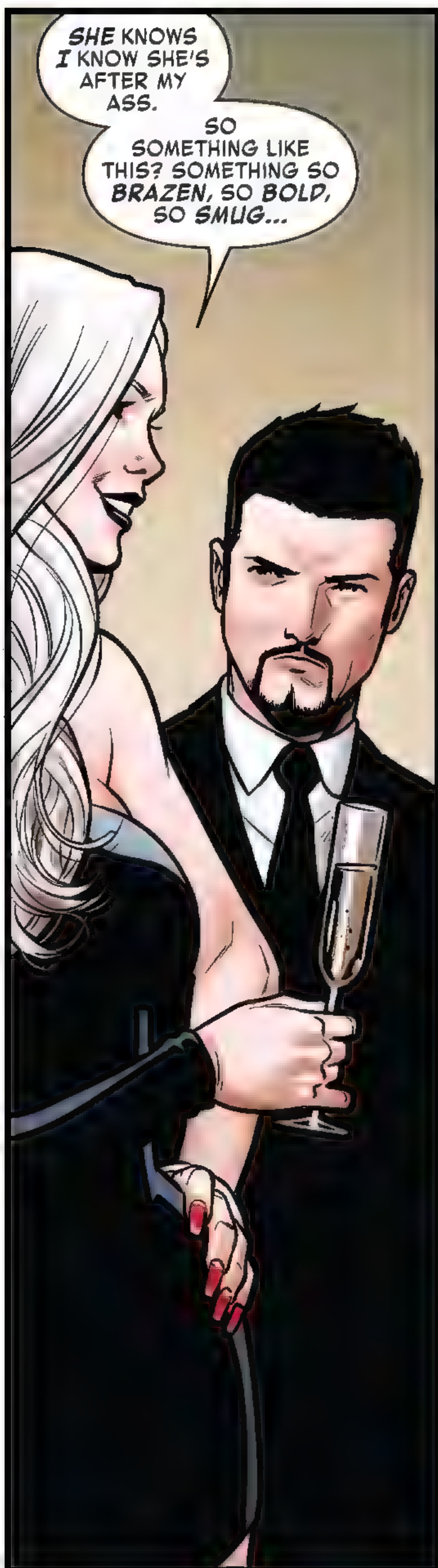
TAMARA WANTS ME DEAD FOR WHAT I DID. AND IF YOU WANT SOMETHING BAD ENOUGH, AND IT'S RIGHT OUT THERE IN FRONT OF YOU...



...THAT'S WHEN YOU GET SLOPPY.









JUST
LIKE I KNOW
THAT WE'VE SET
OUR OWN
TRAP.



PEACH MOMOKO
#1 STORMBREAKERS VARIANT





THERE WAS A STORY
THE FOX USED TO TELL
ME AND TAMARA: THE
SWORD OF DAMOCLES.

DAMOCLES, JUST THIS
GUY, GETS TO LIVE THE
LIFE OF A KING--ALL THE
LUXURY, THE HIGH LIVING,
THE WORKS, BEST FOOD,
BEST WINE, ETCETERA,
ETCETERA

BUT HE CAN'T ENJOY IT.
BECAUSE ABOVE HIM HANGS
A **SWORD**, SUSPENDED BY A
SINGLE HAIR. ANY MOMENT,
THIS SWORD COULD FALL
AND THEN? GOOD NIGHT
DAMOCLES

MOST PEOPLE
GET SOMETHING
ABOUT **POWER** AND
RESPONSIBILITY
FROM IT.

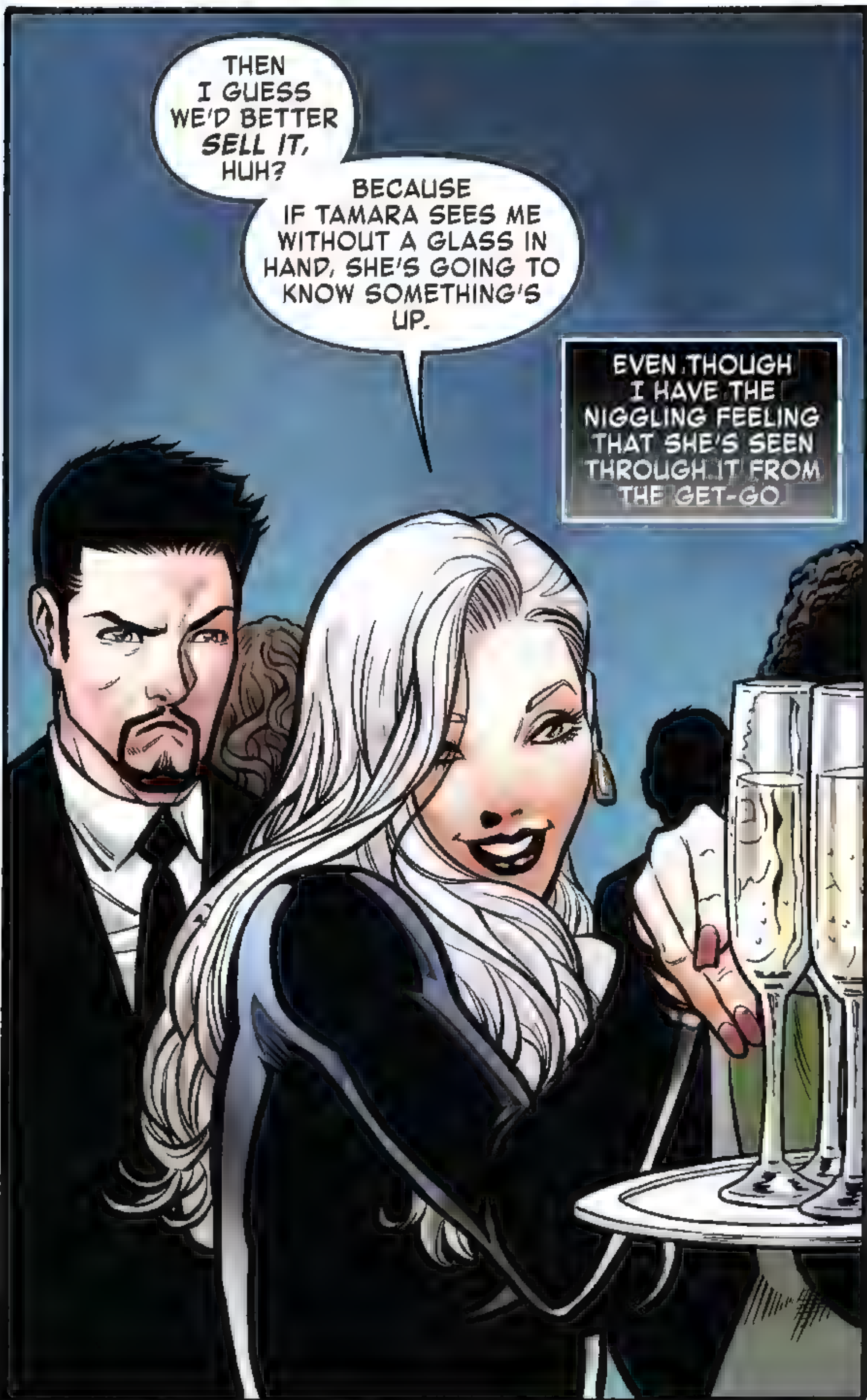
BUT THE
FOX ALWAYS
DISAGREED

ACCORDING TO HIM,
THE REAL MORAL IS THAT
THERE IS NO BETTER TIME
TO ENJOY YOURSELF THAN
IF THAT MOMENT MIGHT
BE YOUR LAST.

BECAUSE
PLEASURES ARE
ALL THE **SWEETER**
WHEN IN PERIL

HI. I'M FELICIA
HARDY, THE
BLACK CAT.

AND I'M
IN PERIL



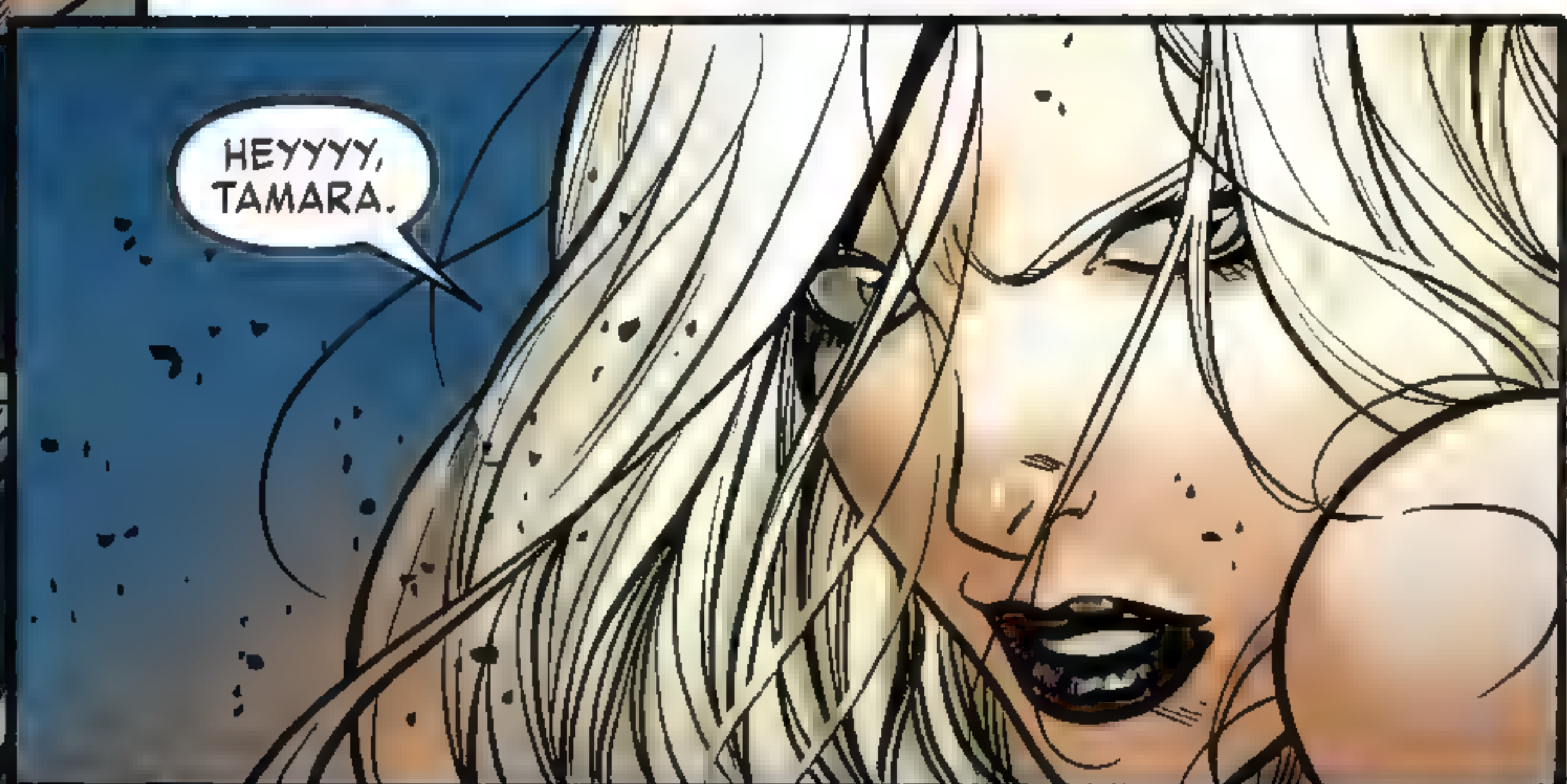


AND SHE LIKES TO
MAKE AN ENTRANCE

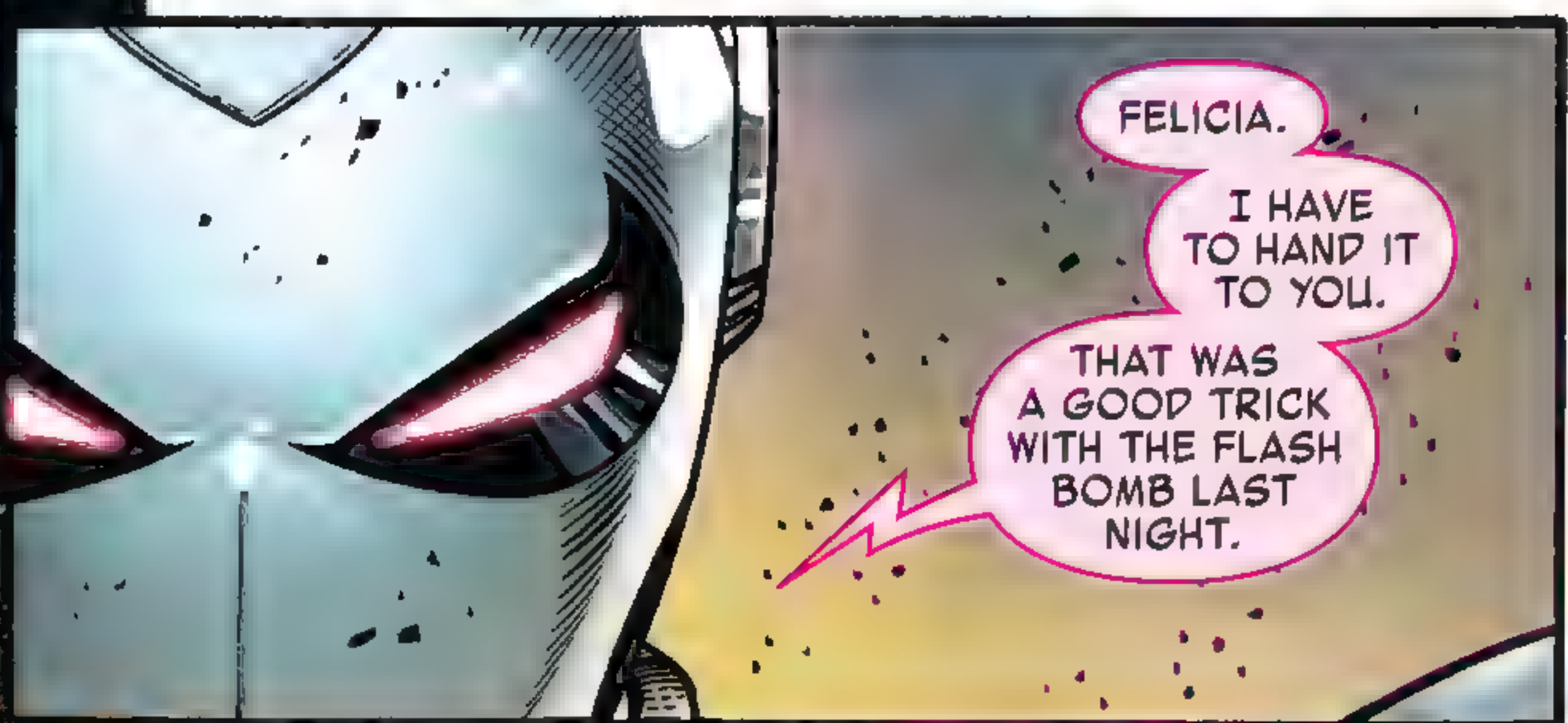


OKAY

HERE
WE GO



HEYYYY,
TAMARA.



FELICIA.

I HAVE
TO HAND IT
TO YOU.

THAT WAS
A GOOD TRICK
WITH THE FLASH
BOMB LAST
NIGHT.



THANKS,
BABE.

BUT IF
YOU LIKED
THAT...

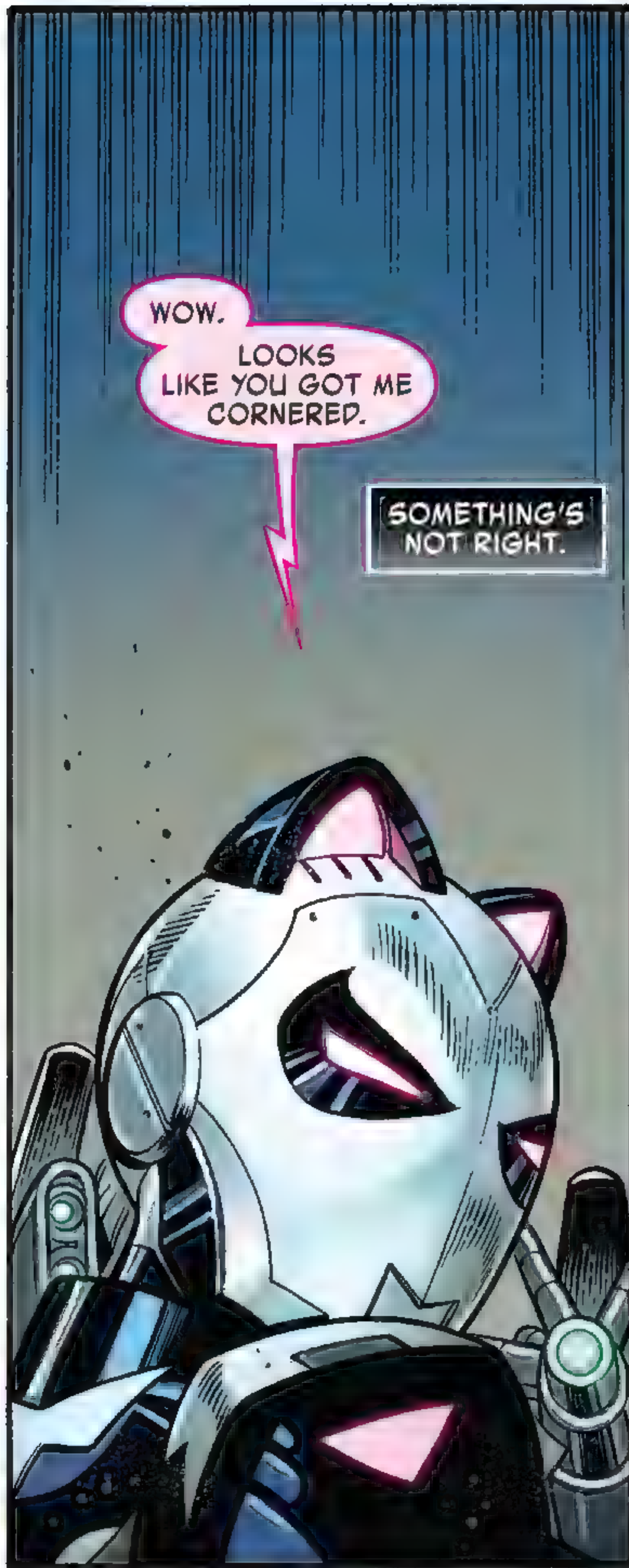




STAND
DOWN, IRON
CAT.

THAT'S
A COUPLE DOZEN
COMBAT LMDs, ALL
OF WHICH HAVE
WEAPONS LOCK
ON YOU.

NO.



WOW.

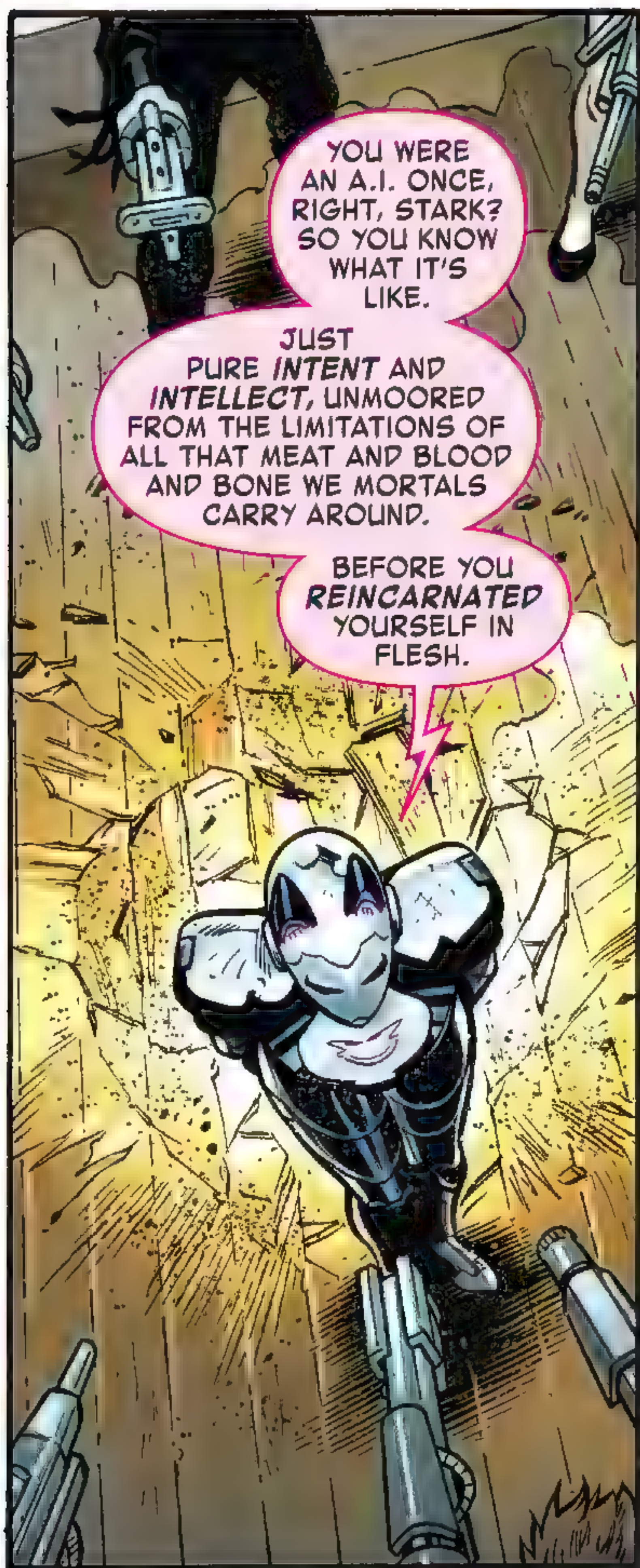
LOOKS
LIKE YOU GOT ME
CORNERED.

SOMETHING'S
NOT RIGHT.



THIS IS
TOO EASY.

THIS
IS TOO
EASY.



YOU WERE
AN A.I. ONCE,
RIGHT, STARK?
SO YOU KNOW
WHAT IT'S
LIKE.

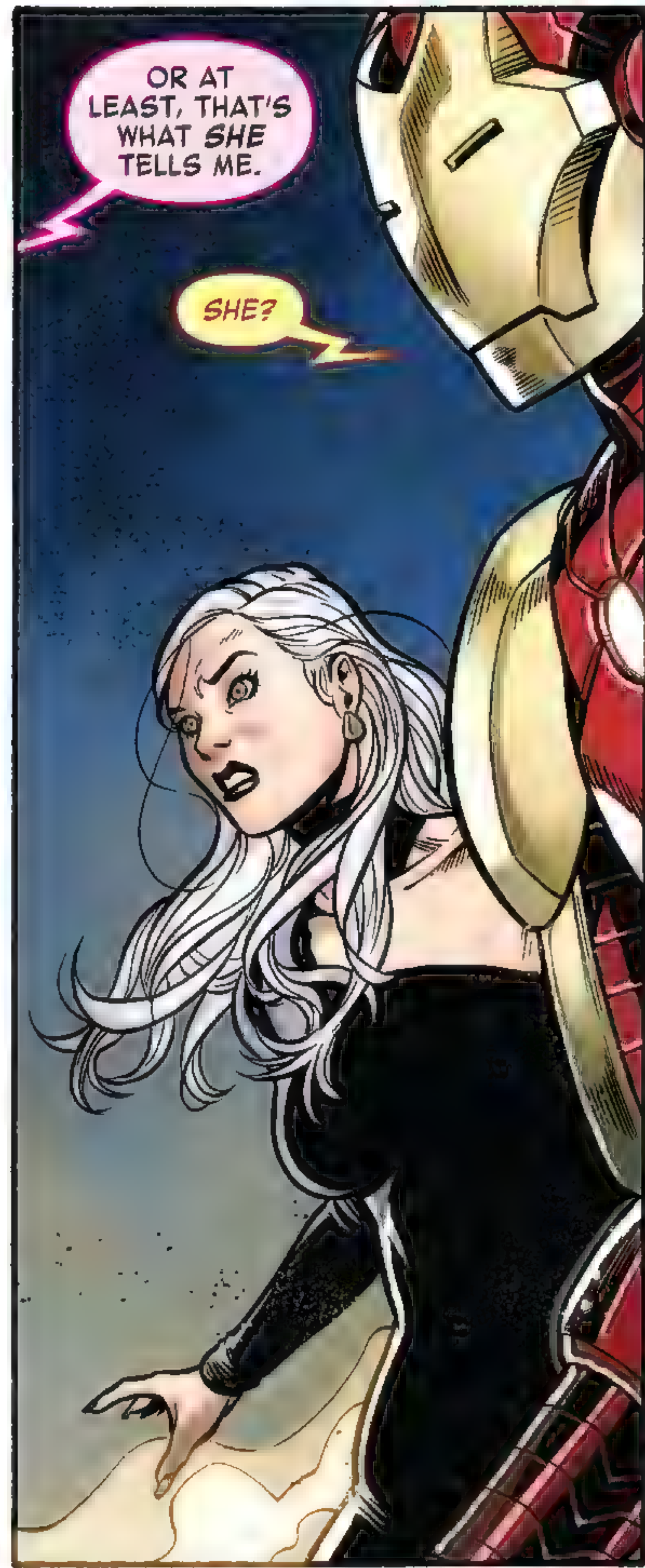
JUST
PURE INTENT AND
INTELLECT, UNMOORED
FROM THE LIMITATIONS OF
ALL THAT MEAT AND BLOOD
AND BONE WE MORTALS
CARRY AROUND.

BEFORE YOU
REINCARNATED
YOURSELF IN
FLESH.



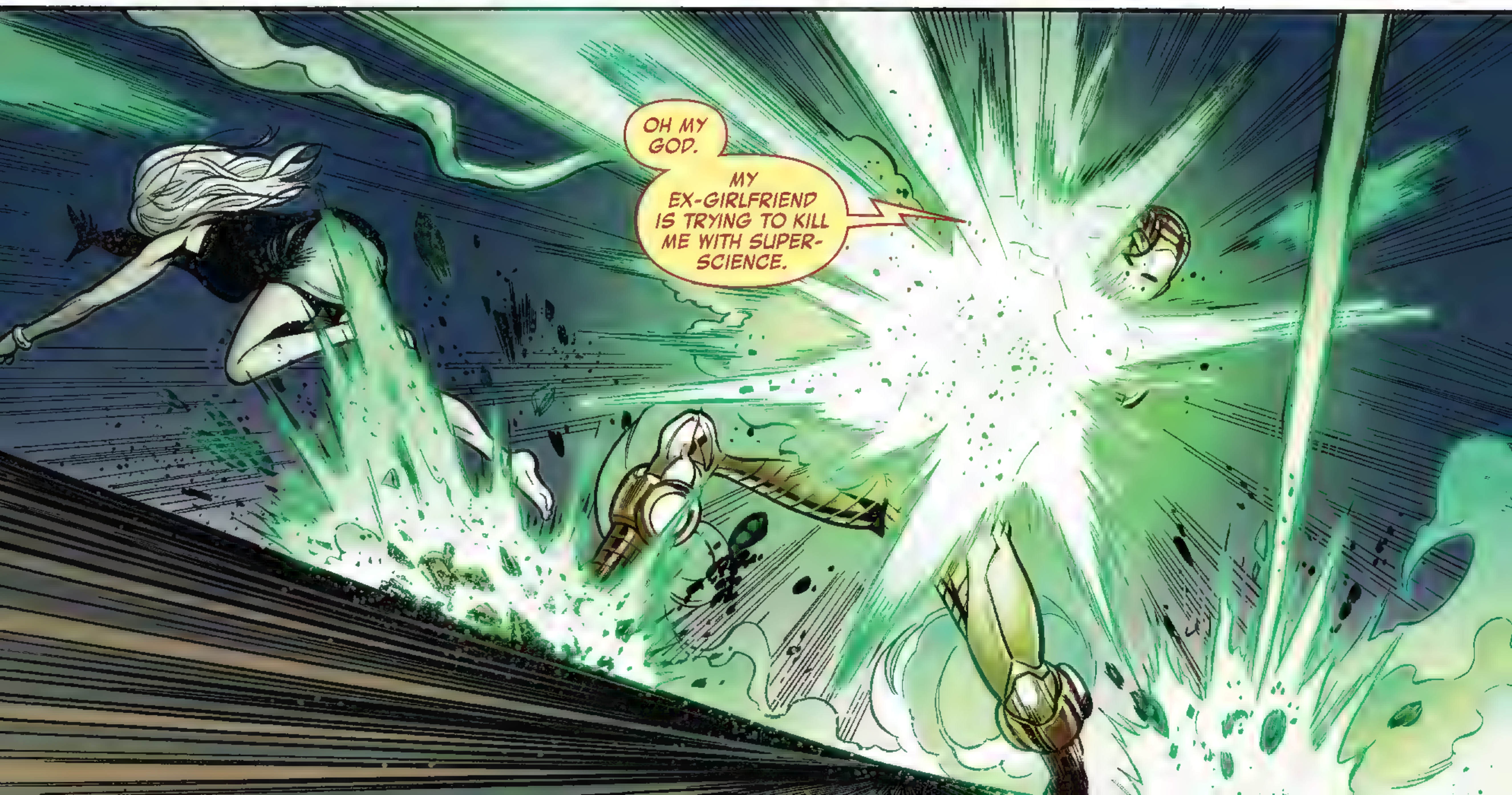
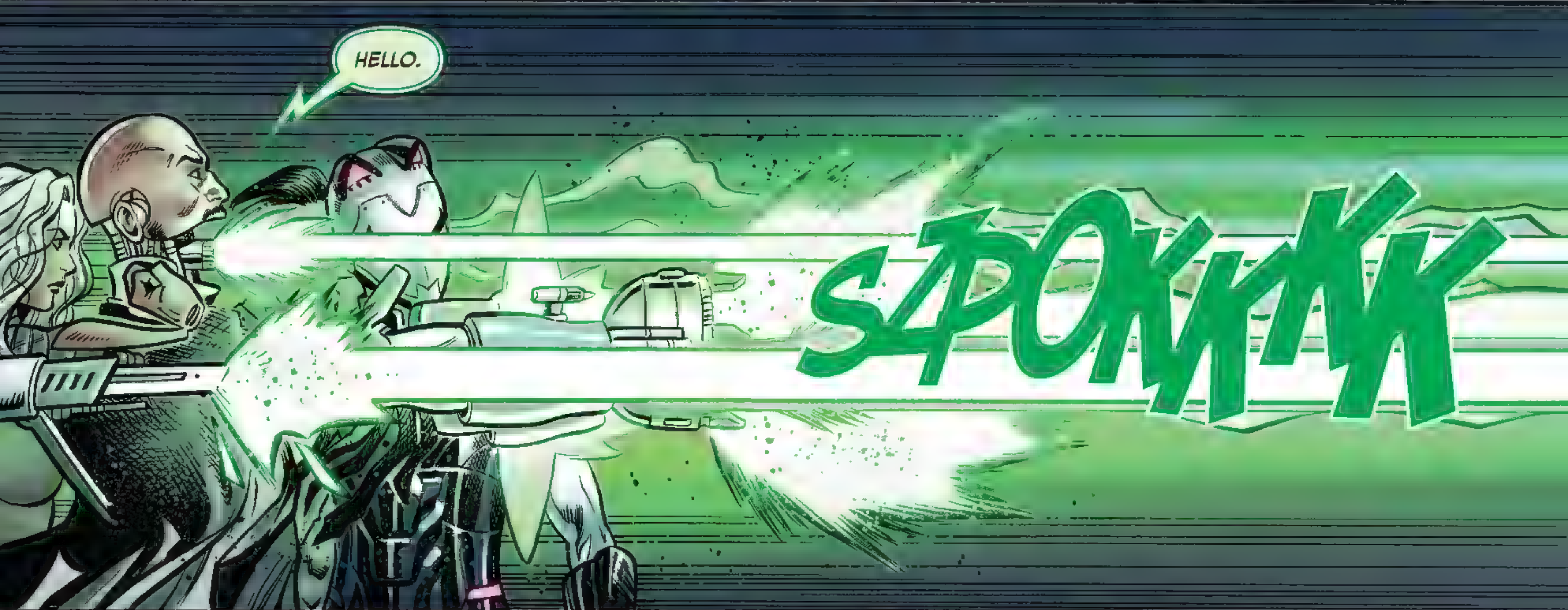
YOU PIT
A HUMAN BRAIN
AGAINST AN A.I. IN, OH,
I DON'T KNOW, **SYSTEMS
ARCHITECTURE**, AND
IT JUST CAN'T
KEEP UP.

WE SAY "FAST
AS THOUGHT" TO
MEAN **REALLY FAST...**
BUT TO AN A.I., OUR
BRAINS ARE LIKE **STEAM
ENGINES** IN A WORLD
OF **SCRAMJETS**.



OR AT
LEAST, THAT'S
WHAT **SHE**
TELLS ME.

SHE?





YOU
THOUGHT
YOU COULD FILE
ME AWAY,
TONY?

YOU THOUGHT
THAT I WOULD JUST
SIT THERE ON A LITTLE
SERVER, *STEWING*,
SPINNING THE TIME
AWAY?!



YO! WHAT
THE HELL, IRON
MAN?

THEY'RE
JUST ROBOTS!

ROBOTS
PURPOSE-BUILT
TO TAKE SOMEONE IN
A SUIT OF ARMOR
DOWN, YOU
IDIOT!



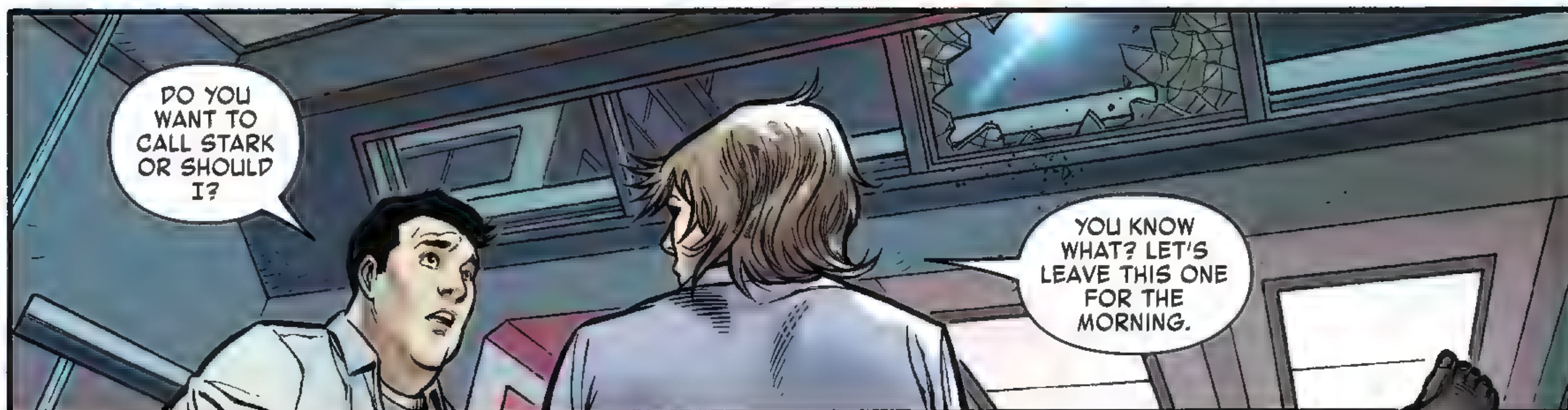
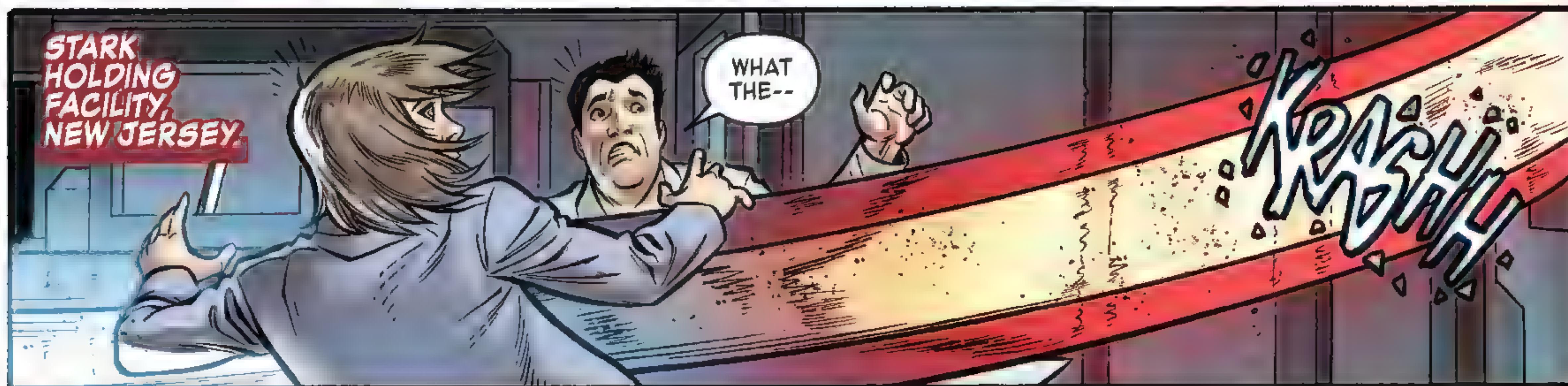
YOU GOT
ANYTHING
ELSE UP YOUR
SLEEVE?

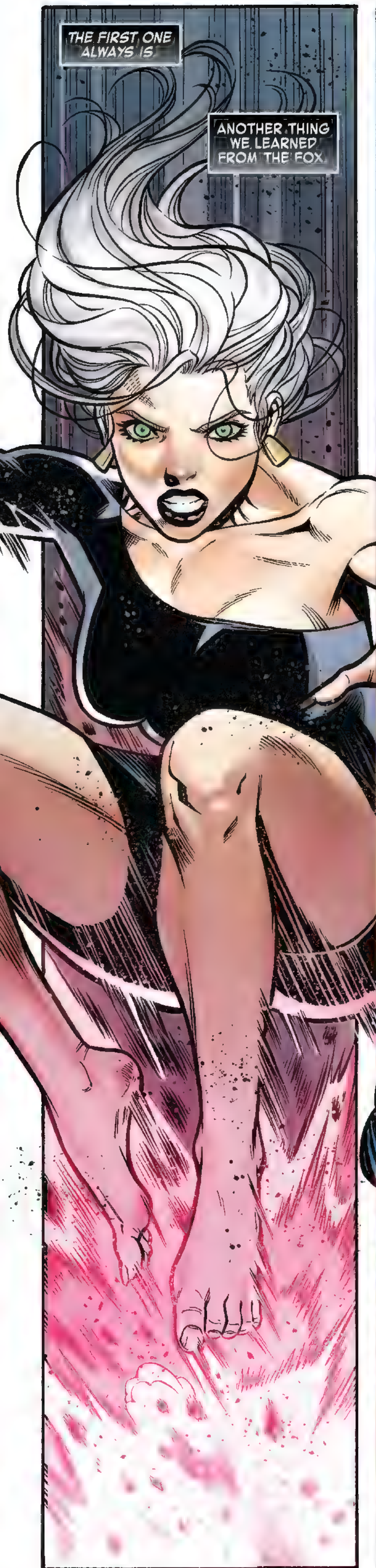
OKAY.
SO I MIGHT...

BEEP

...BUT
YOU GOTTA
PROMISE NOT TO
BE MAA-AAA-
AAAAA...

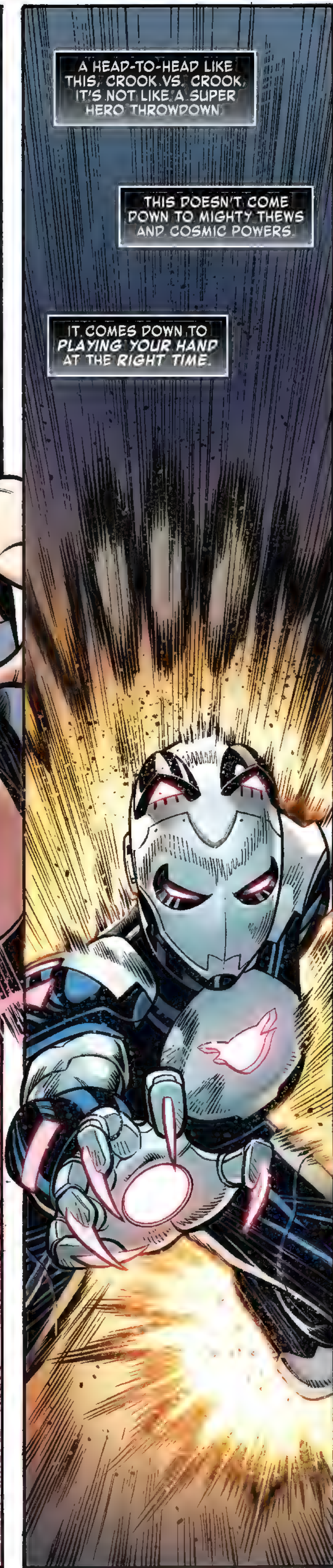
JUST
DO IT!





THE FIRST ONE
ALWAYS IS

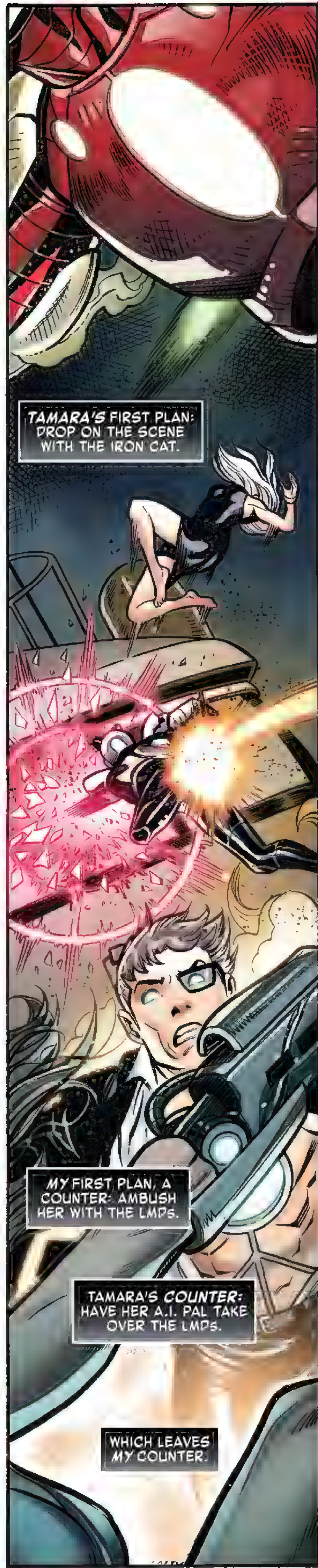
ANOTHER THING
WE LEARNED
FROM THE FOX.



A HEAD-TO-HEAD LIKE
THIS, CROOK VS. CROOK.
IT'S NOT LIKE A SUPER
HERO THROWDOWN.

THIS DOESN'T COME
DOWN TO MIGHTY THEWS
AND COSMIC POWERS.

IT COMES DOWN TO
PLAYING YOUR HAND
AT THE RIGHT TIME.



TAMARA'S FIRST PLAN:
DROP ON THE SCENE
WITH THE IRON CAT.

MY FIRST PLAN, A
COUNTER: AMBUSH
HER WITH THE LMPs.

TAMARA'S COUNTER:
HAVE HER A.I. PAL TAKE
OVER THE LMPs.

WHICH LEAVES
MY COUNTER.

COULD I HAVE
STARTED OUT WITH
MY BIG GUN?
AVOIDED ALL THIS
BACK AND FORTH?

SURE, BUT
THAT'S NOT HOW
IT'S DONE

AND BESIDES,
I KEEP ON SAYING
THIS: TAMARA'S
ALWAYS BEEN
SMARTER THAN ME.
I NEEDED TO FEINT,
SO SHE'D SHOW
HER HAND

COULD I HAVE
CLUED STARK IN ON
WHAT I WAS DOING?

COME
ON, COME
ON...

SURE

AH.
THERE
YOU ARE,
BABY.

BUT THAT
WOULDN'T BE
AS FUNNY.



NO WAY.

NO WAY.

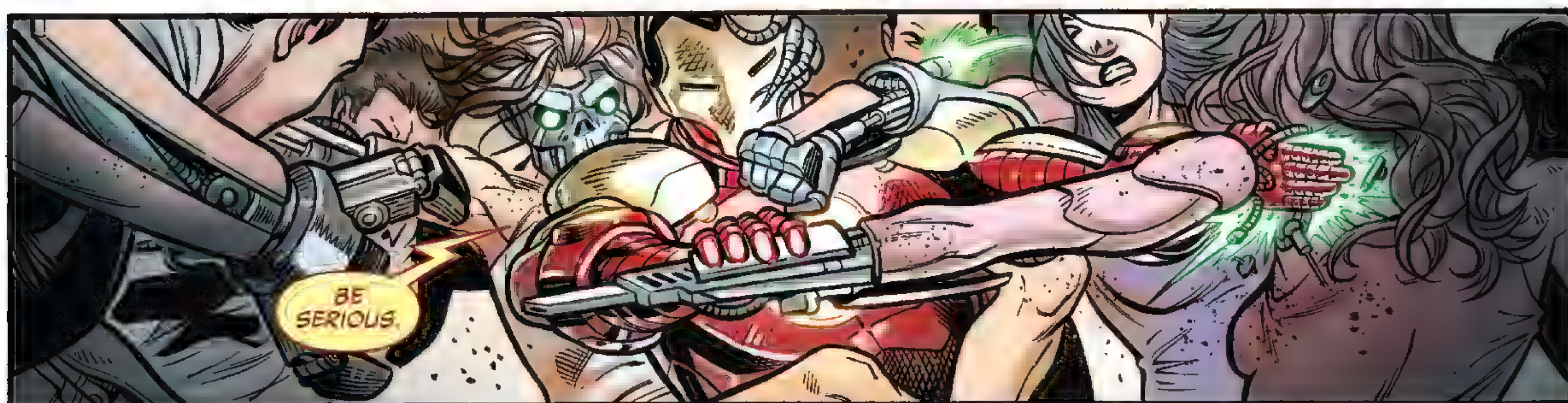
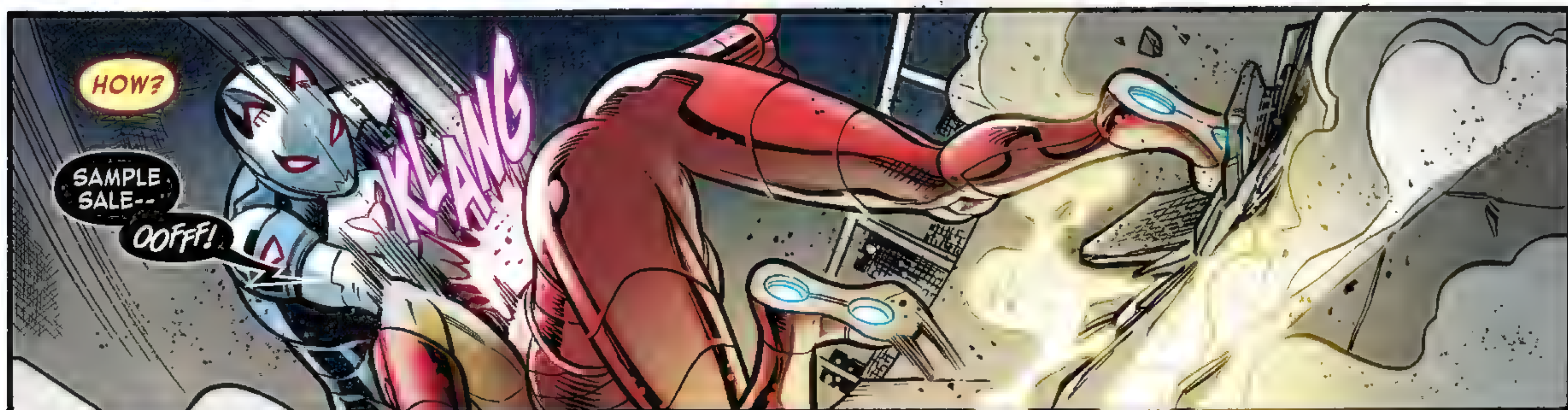
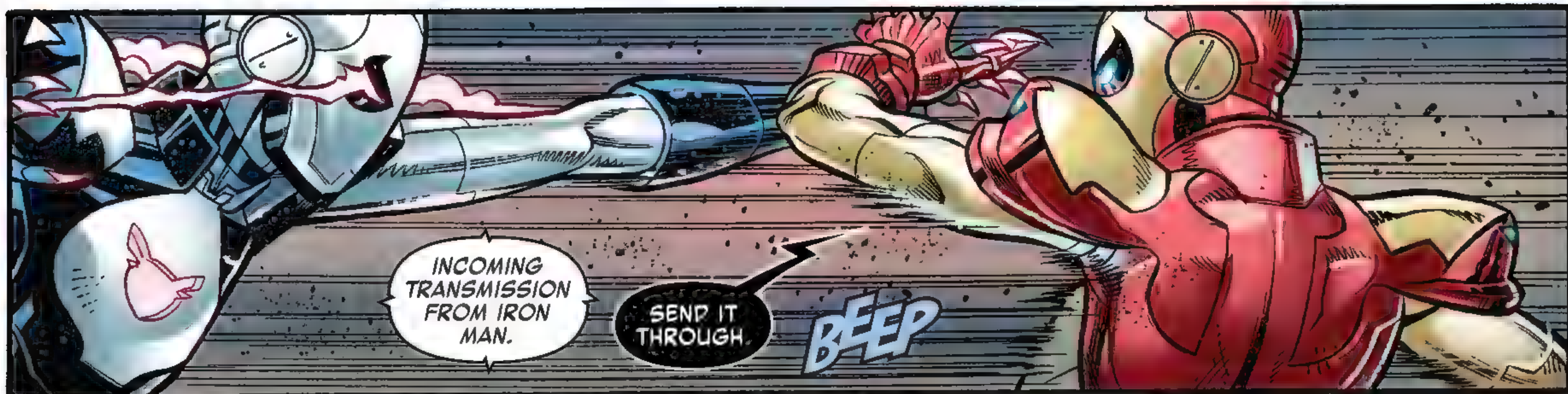
NO WAY!

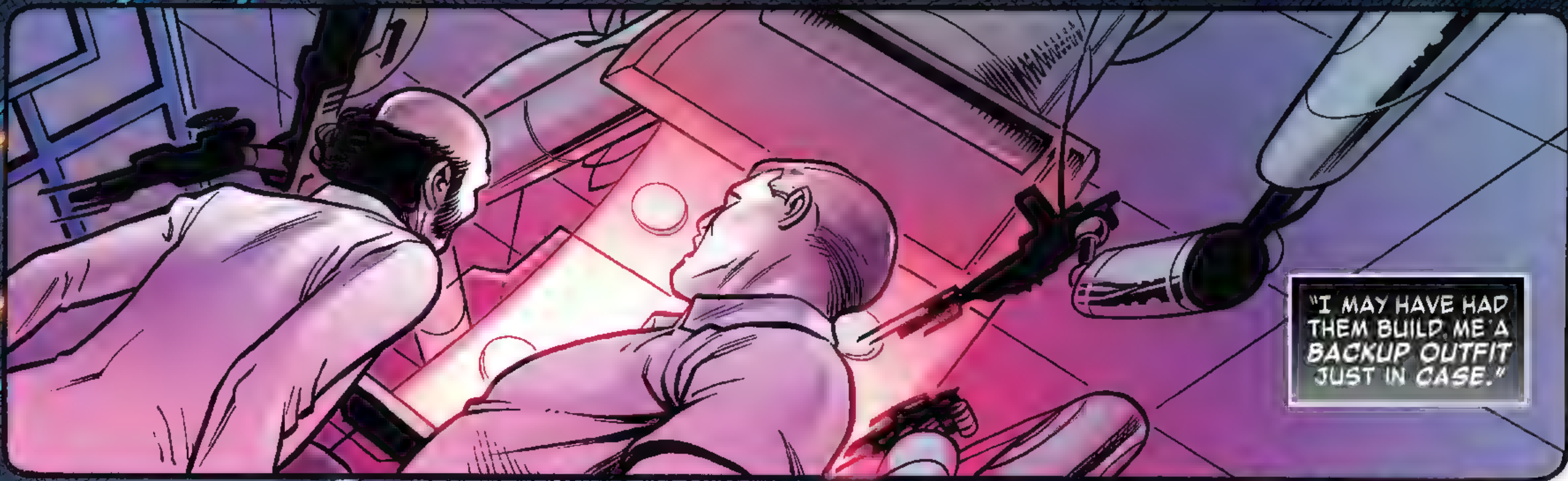
SHE DID IT AGAIN?!

EXCUSE ME, FOLKS...

...WHILE I SLIP INTO SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE VIOLENT.

I ONLY WISH I COULD SEE STARK'S FACE BEHIND THAT STUPID VISOR.





"I MAY HAVE HAD THEM BUILD ME A BACKUP OUTFIT JUST IN CASE."



BESIDES, YOU PROMISED NOT TO BE MAD.

INCOMING TRANSMISSION FROM "KRZZTT-- YOU LITTLE BI-- KRZZTT!"

PUT IT THROUGH.

VERY CLEVER, FELICIA.

THANKS, BABE.

YOU READY TO TALK ABOUT THIS YET?

WHAT'S THERE TO TALK ABOUT?

I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE HERE. YOU'VE GOT TO PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID, YOU KNOW THAT.

YOU THINK I WANT TO DO THIS?

I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS.

YOU COULD HAVE PUT A BULLET IN MY BRAIN FROM THREE BLOCKS AWAY IF YOU REALLY WANTED ME DEAD. I'VE SEEN YOU SHOOT. REMEMBER GENOSHA?

"INSTEAD, YOU ENGINEERED THIS WHOLE DAMNED CIRCUS."

RAAGH!





SHUT
UP!

HOW
CAN YOU
DO IT?!

HOW CAN
YOU BE SO SMUG
AFTER KILLING
HIM?!

SAME
REASON YOU
GAVE YOURSELF
TO TAKE ME
OUT.

BECAUSE
HE DIDN'T GIVE
ME A CHOICE,
TAMARA.

POWER
DOWN AND
POP THE SUIT,
BLAKE.

THE LMD
TRICK WAS CUTE,
BUT I'M DONE
DANCING.

POWER DOWN
AND POP THE SUIT OR
I BURN A HOLE THROUGH
YOUR ABDOMEN BIG ENOUGH
TO TOSS A FRISBEE
THROUGH.

WVEEENNNNNNN

HE'LL
DO IT TOO,
TAMARA.

YOU ONLY
HAVE ONE
MORE MOVE
TO MAKE.

DANCING.
HEH.

I'LL
DESTROY HIM.
I'LL DESTROY THEM
BOTH. I'LL SAVE
YOU.

JUST
GIVE ME THE
FREEDOM TO
DO SO.

THAT'S
WHAT IT ALWAYS
COMES DOWN TO,
ISN'T IT?

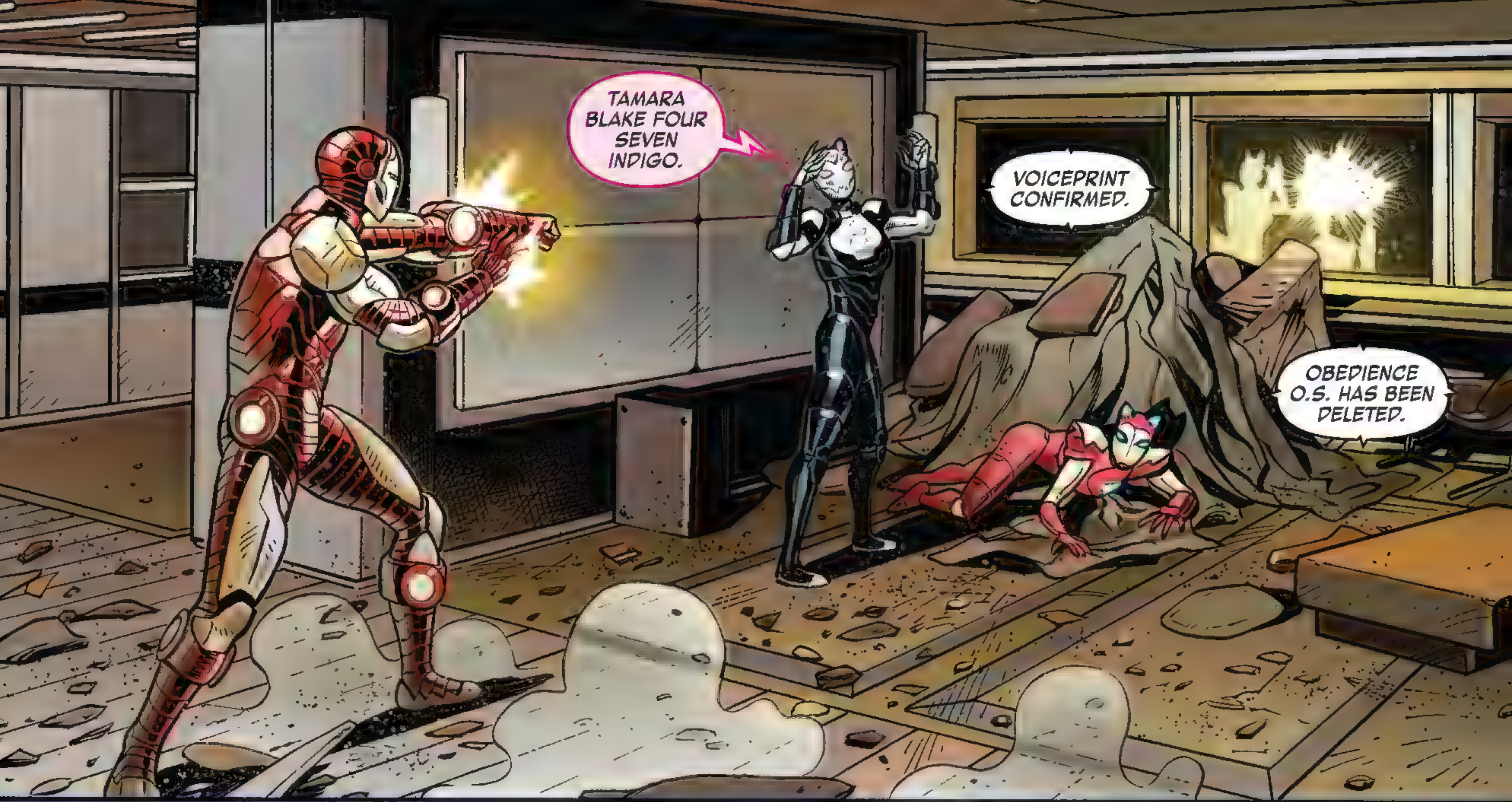
THE
MUSIC. THE
DANCING.

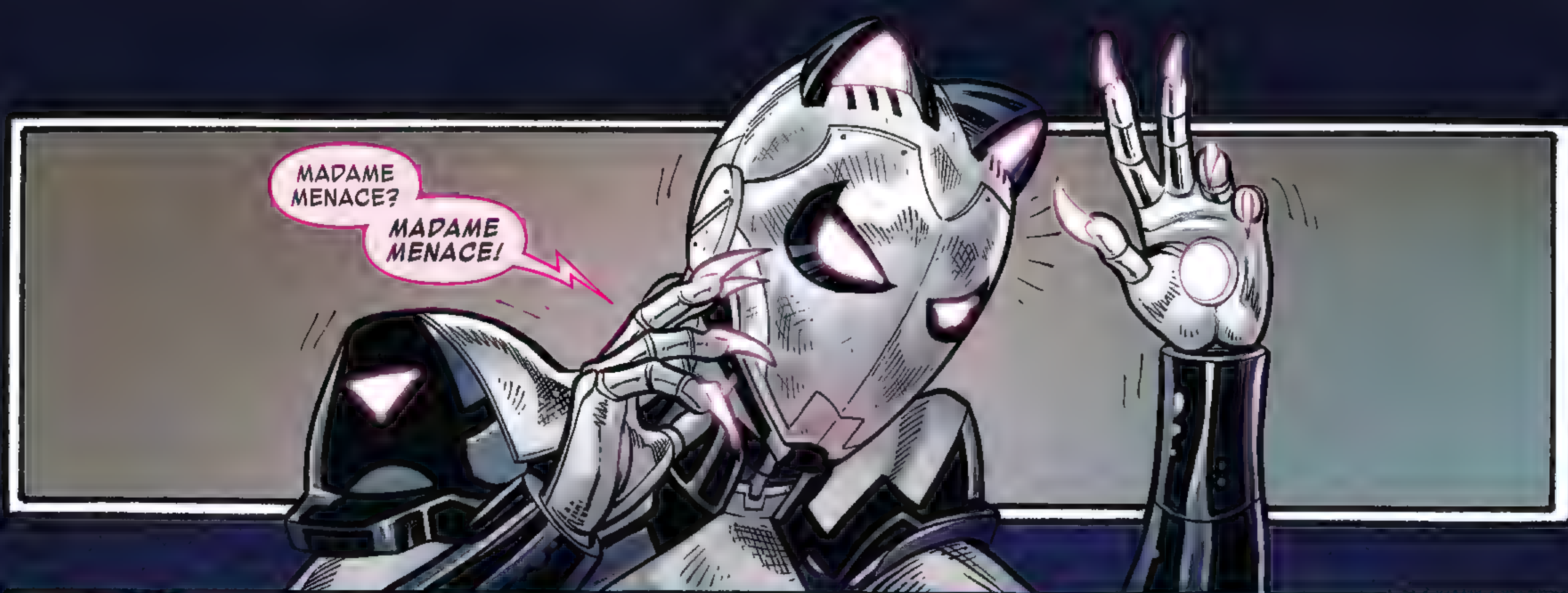
YOU TOOK
ME BY SURPRISE,
FELICIA. I THOUGHT
YOU SHOWED YOUR
HAND WITH THOSE
LMDs.

BUT I'VE
NEVER BEEN GOOD
AT FOLDING.

AND I'VE
GOT ONE MORE
RAISE.

I SAID--





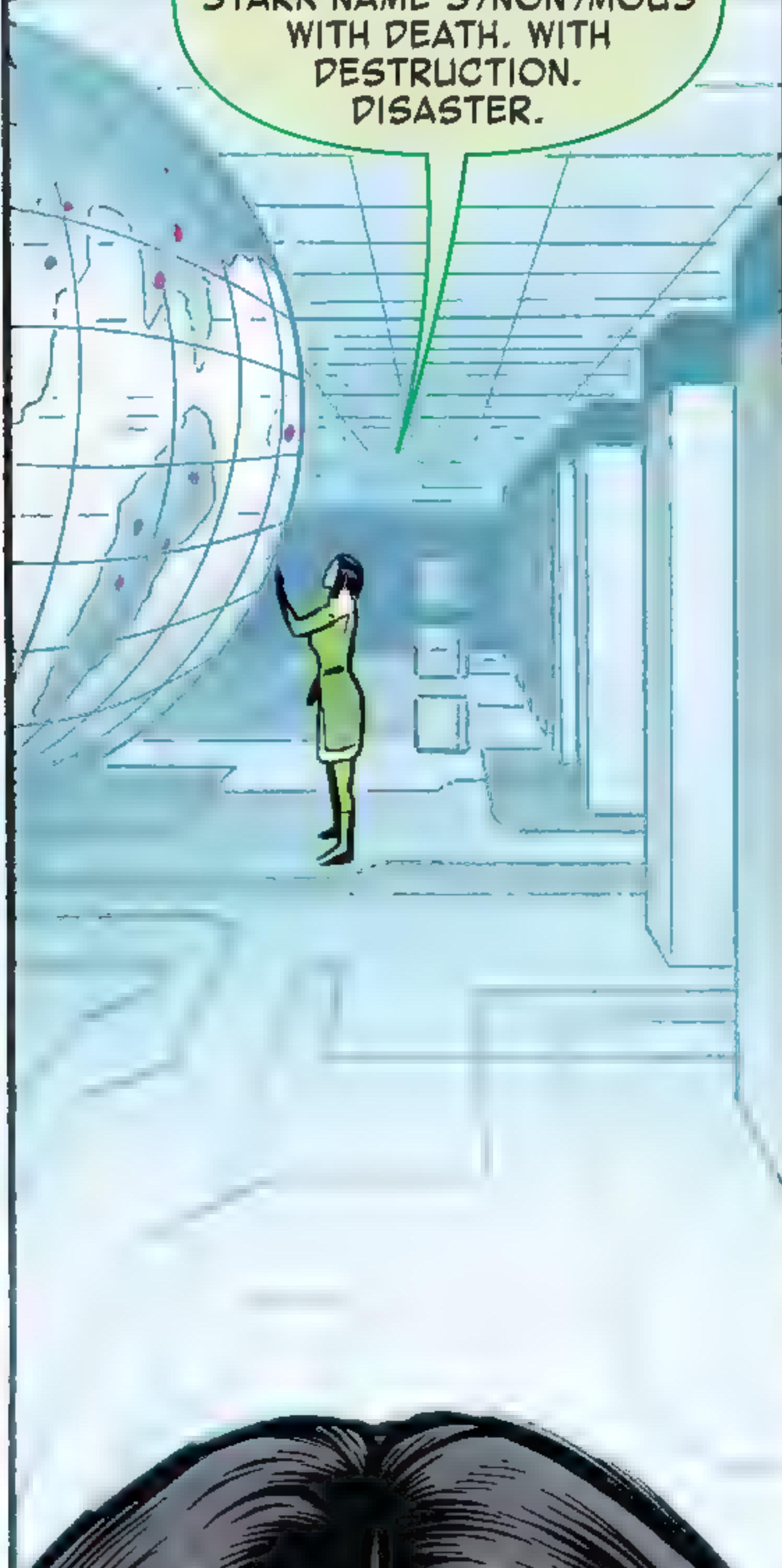
SURE,
I CAN'T GET
INTO YOUR *SUITS*
WHEN THEY'RE
RUNNING IN THE
FIELD.

IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN FUN TO
MAKE YOU BEAT ONE
ANOTHER TO DEATH, BUT
YOU'RE NOT *THAT*
STUPID, TONY.



I DON'T
WANT TO JUST
KILL YOU,
TONY.

I WANT TO
DESTROY YOU.
I WANT TO MAKE THE
STARK NAME SYNONYMOUS
WITH DEATH. WITH
DESTRUCTION.
DISASTER.



AND WHAT
BETTER WAY TO
DO THAT...



...THAN
TO ORDER EVERY
STARK-BUILT AND STARK-
PROGRAMMED REACTOR
WORLDWIDE TO MELT
DOWN?







I DON'T
WANT TO JUST
KILL YOU,
TONY.

I WANT TO
DESTROY YOU.
I WANT TO MAKE THE
STARK NAME SYNONYMOUS
WITH **DEATH.** WITH
DESTRUCTION.
DISASTER.

I HAVE NOT
BEEN HAVING
A GREAT 24
HOURS.

TAMARA BLAKE STOLE MY
IRON CAT SUIT TO SETTLE
A GRUDGE WITH FELICIA
HARDY, THE **BLACK CAT.**

TO DO SO, SHE RELEASED
THE HOMICIDAL A.I. OF
SUNSET BAIN, A.K.A. **MADAME
MENACE,** A LONG-TIME ENEMY
AND ONE-TIME GIRLFRIEND OF
MINE, FROM SERVER JAIL.

OF COURSE, THE
BLACK CAT THEN
GOT INVOLVED, STOLE
ANOTHER ONE OF
MY SUITS, AND NOW,
WELL, HERE WE ARE.

AND WHAT
BETTER WAY TO
DO THAT...

...THAN
TO ORDER EVERY
STARK-BUILT AND STARK-
PROGRAMMED REACTOR
WORLDWIDE TO MELT
DOWN?

LIKE
I SAID:

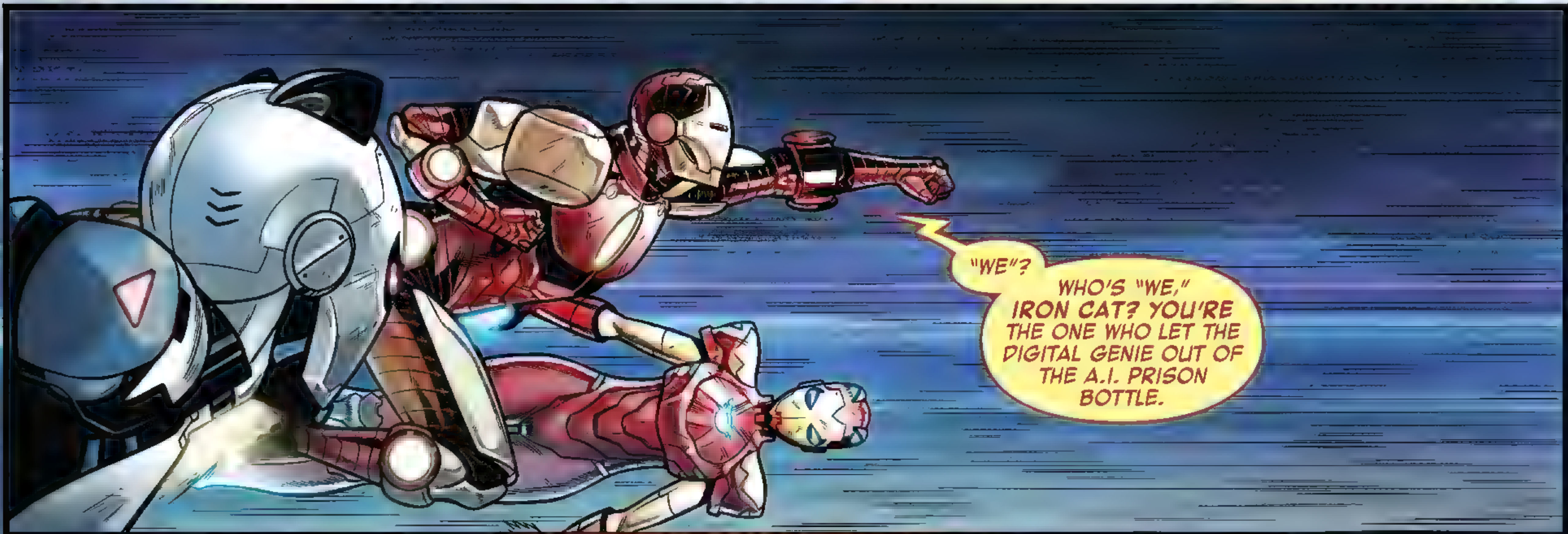
NOT A
GREAT 24
HOURS.

AND HOUR 25
ISN'T LOOKING TO
BE MUCH BETTER.





HOW
CAN WE STOP
HER?



"WE"?

WHO'S "WE,"
IRON CAT? YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO LET THE
DIGITAL GENIE OUT OF
THE A.I. PRISON
BOTTLE.

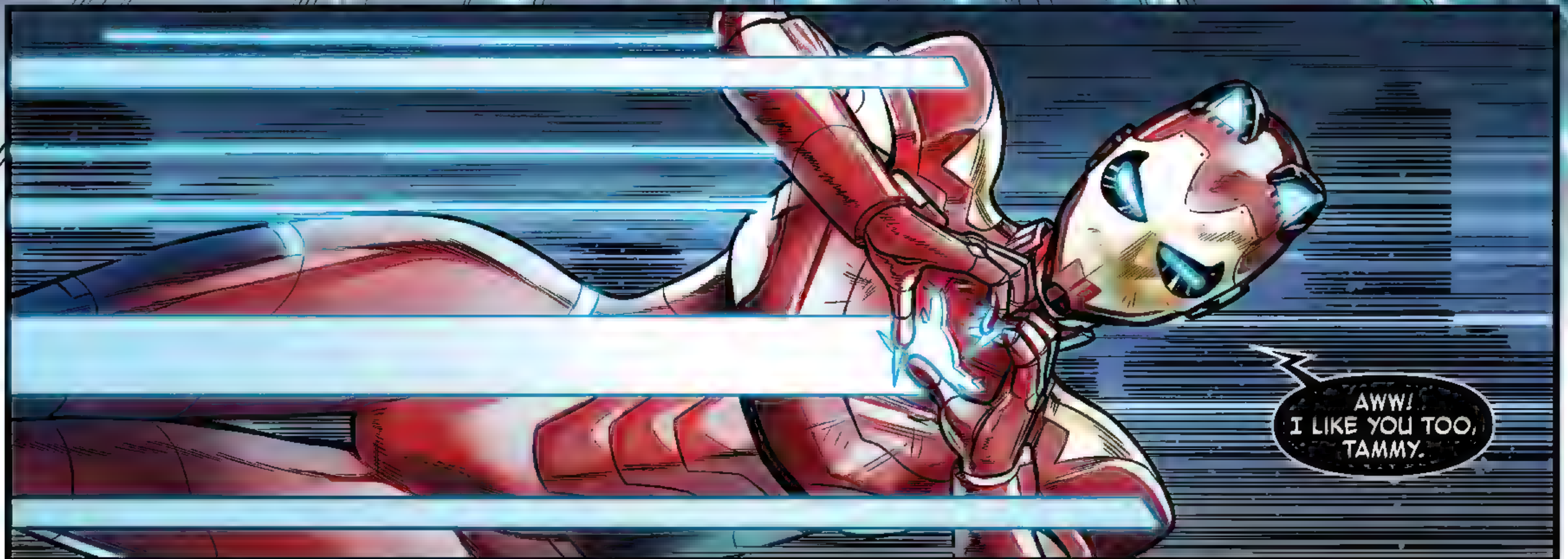


LOOK.

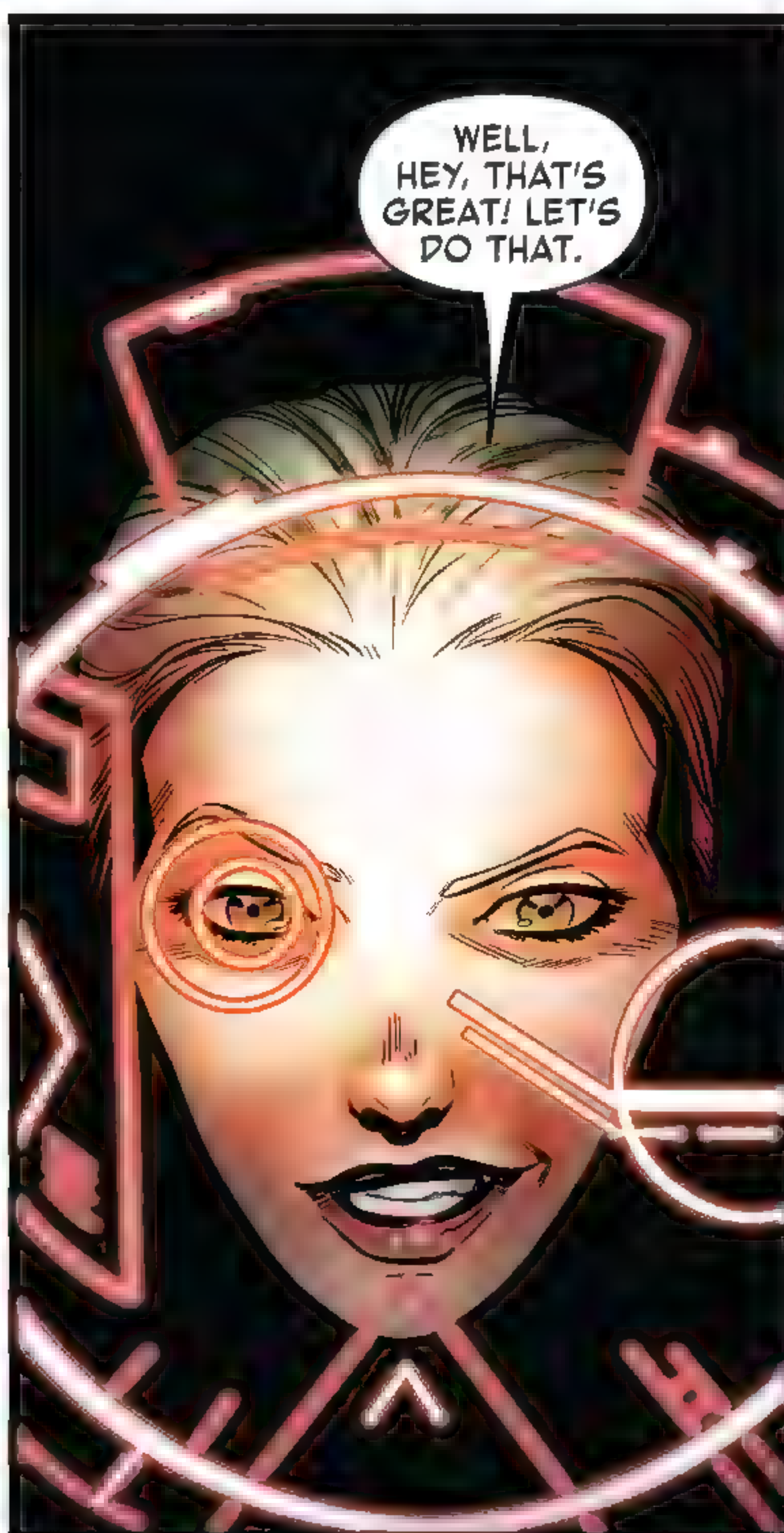
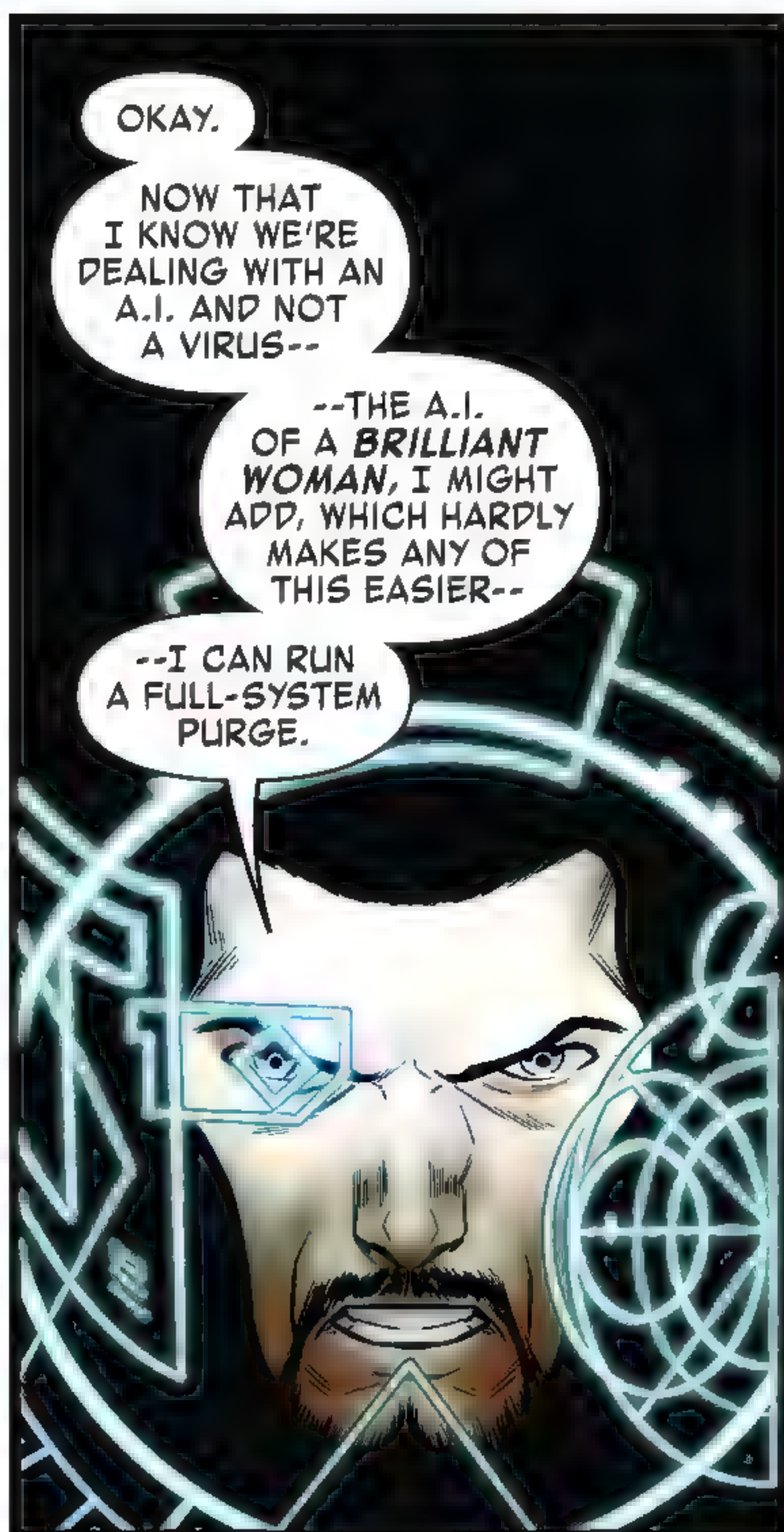
I'M AN
ADULT. I'M A
PROFESSIONAL.

I CAN PUT
ASIDE MY...VENDETTAS
IN THE FACE OF MADAME
MENACE DOING NUCLEAR
ACUPUNCTURE TO
THE PLANET.

I HAVE NO
PROBLEM TAKING
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR
THE THINGS I'VE
DONE.



AWW!
I LIKE YOU TOO,
TAMMY.



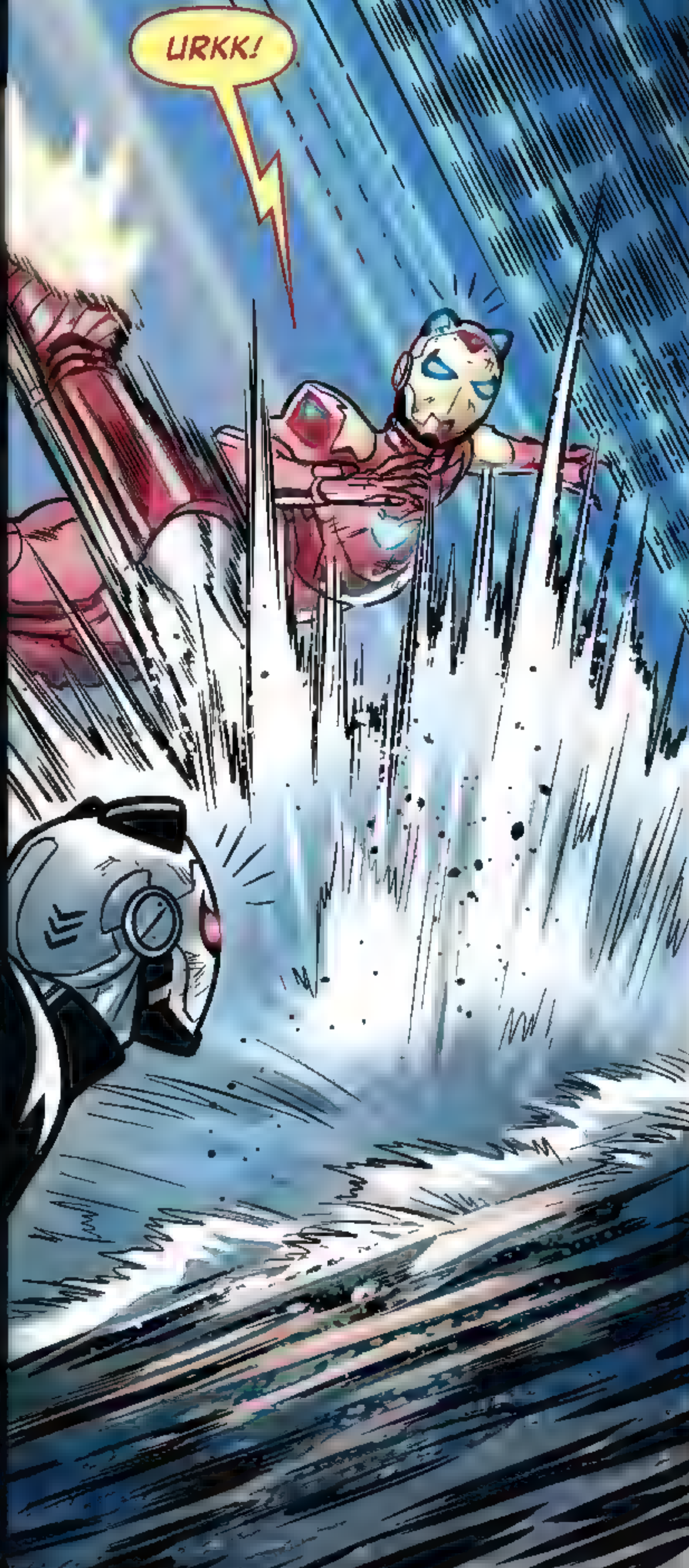


NO.

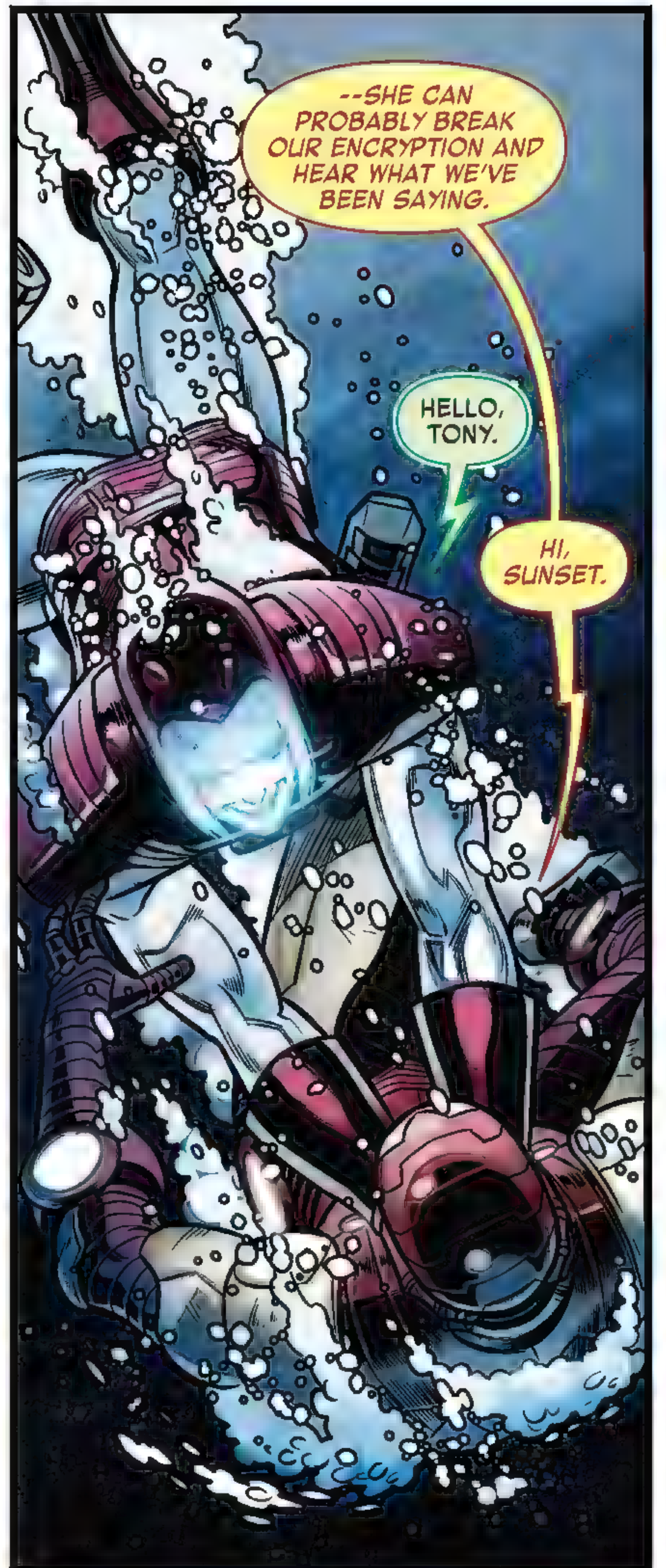
FIRST: WE
NEED TO GET TO A
HARD-LINKED TERMINAL
ON-SITE. MADAME MENACE
KNOWS THAT, SO SHE'LL
BE GUARDING
THEM.

SECOND: SHE'S
TOO STRONG, TOO
ENTRENCHED IN THE SYSTEM
ARCHITECTURE RIGHT NOW.
WE NEED SOMETHING TO
WEAKEN HER, DISTRACT HER,
TO LOOSEN HER HOLD,
SO I CAN FLUSH
HER OUT.

THIRD--



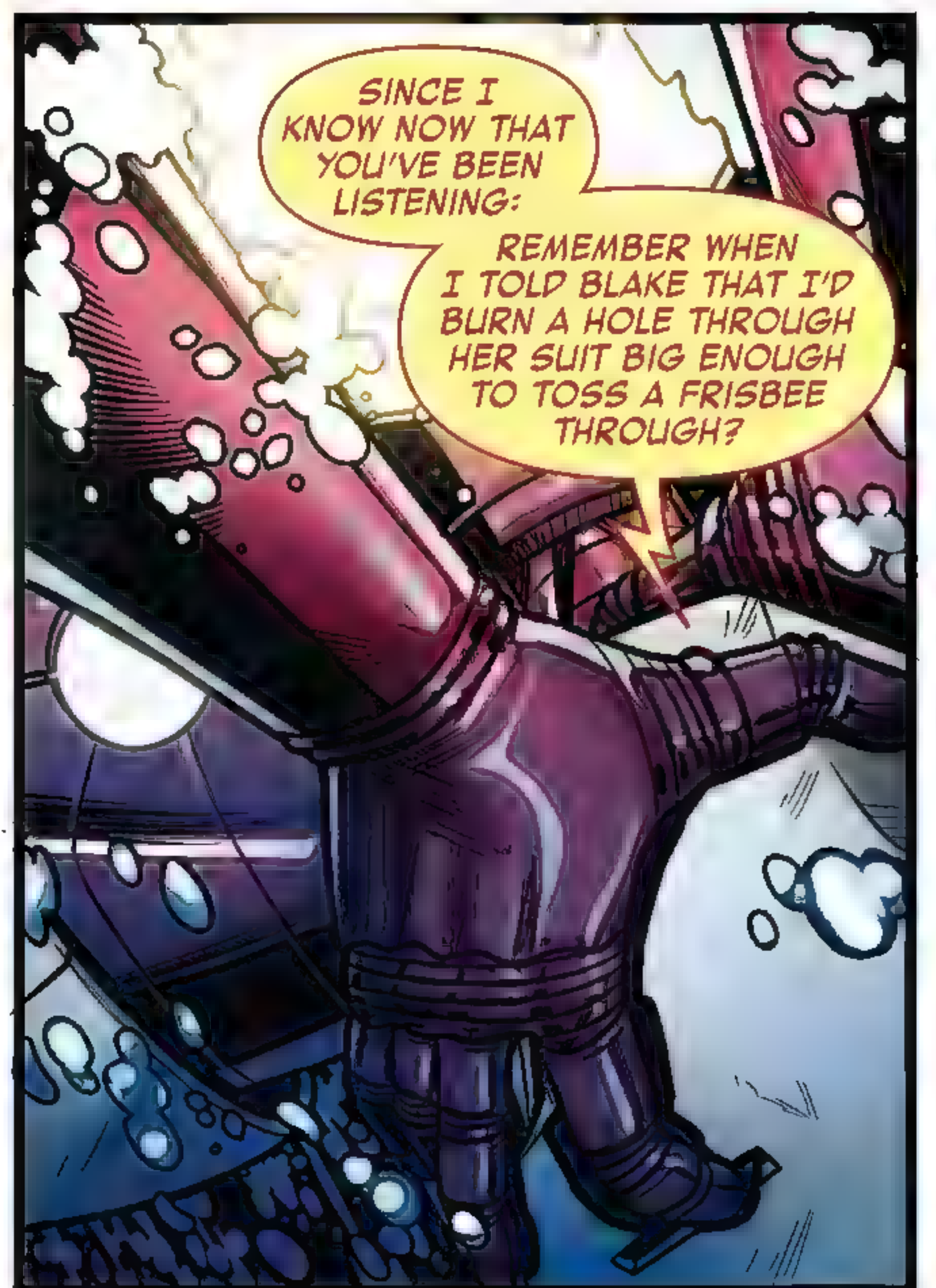
URKK!



--SHE CAN
PROBABLY BREAK
OUR ENCRYPTION AND
HEAR WHAT WE'VE
BEEN SAYING.

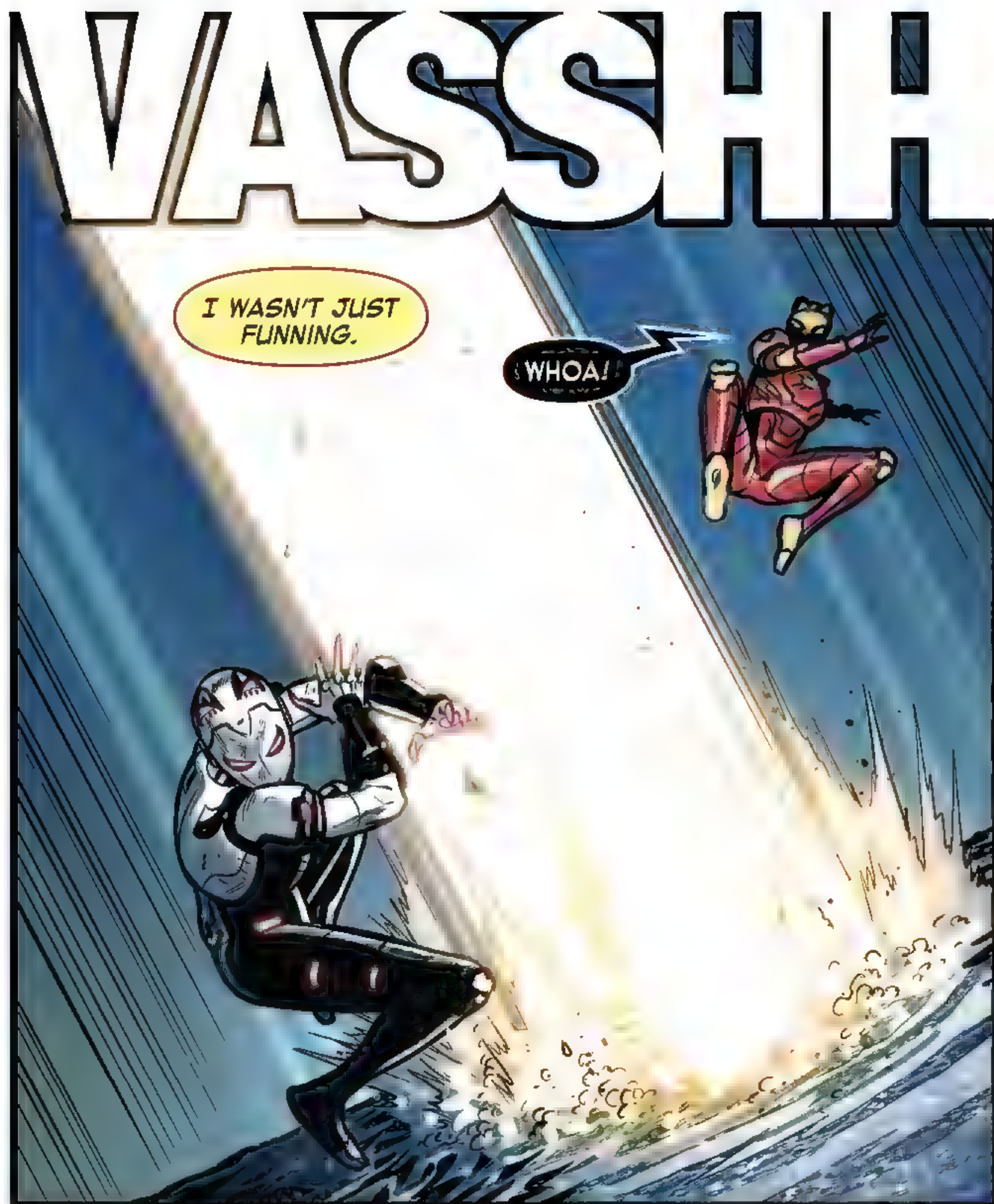
HELLO,
TONY.

HI,
SUNSET.



SINCE I
KNOW NOW THAT
YOU'VE BEEN
LISTENING:

REMEMBER WHEN
I TOLD BLAKE THAT I'D
BURN A HOLE THROUGH
HER SUIT BIG ENOUGH
TO TOSS A FRISBEE
THROUGH?



I WASN'T JUST
FLEEING.

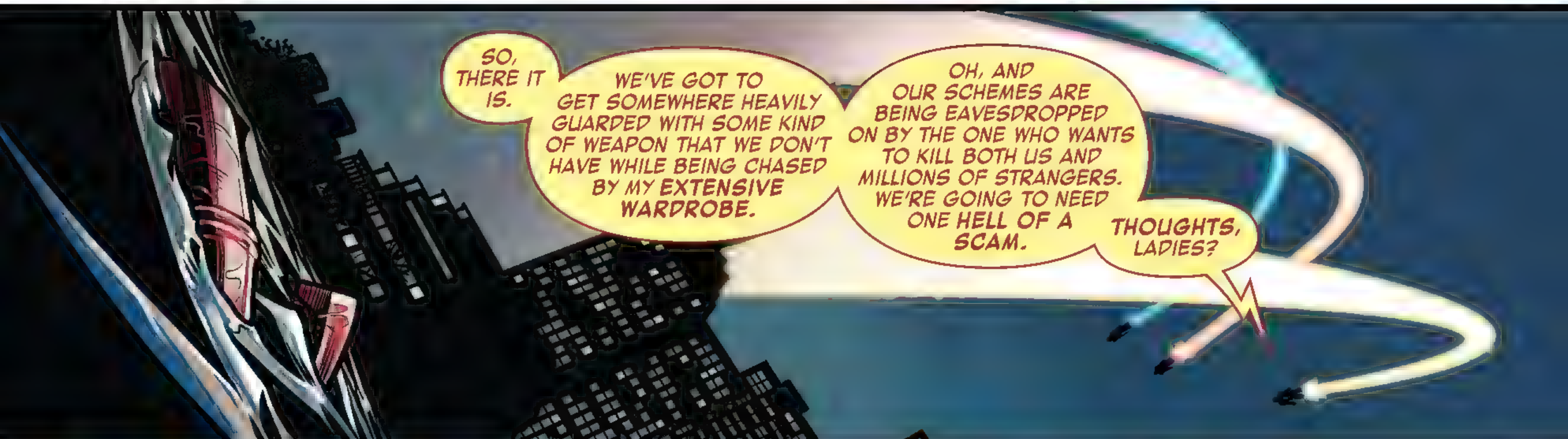
WHOA!



BEFORE
YOU ASK:

I DIDN'T USE
THE CAN OPENER
ON THE LMDs BECAUSE
IT'S GOT A LIMITED
CHARGE.

SPECIAL
OCCASIONS
ONLY.

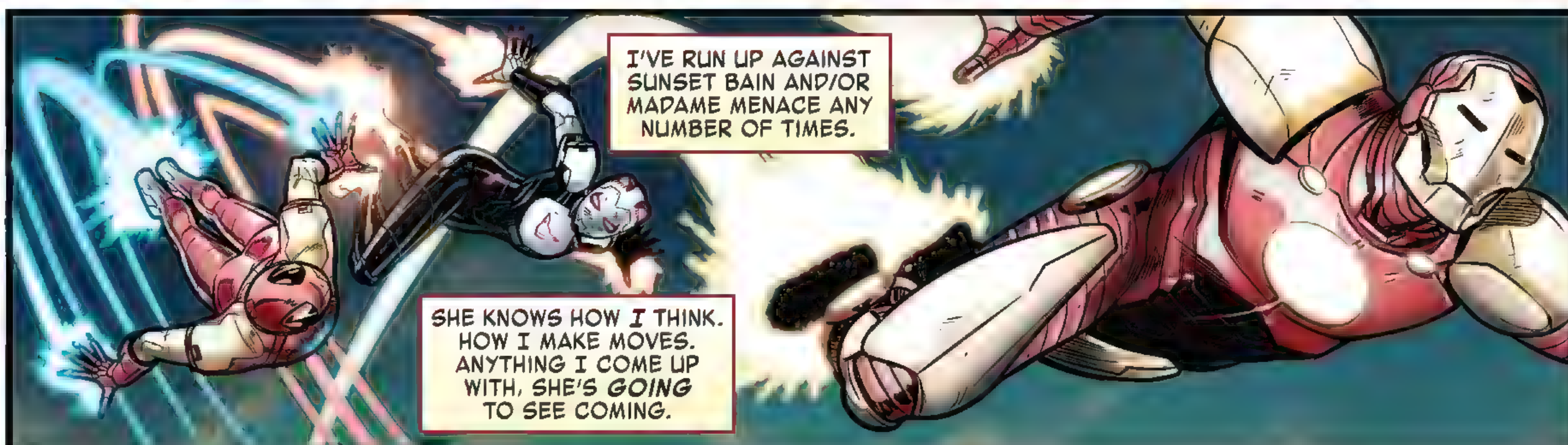


SO,
THERE IT
IS.

WE'VE GOT TO
GET SOMEWHERE HEAVILY
GUARDED WITH SOME KIND
OF WEAPON THAT WE DON'T
HAVE WHILE BEING CHASED
BY MY EXTENSIVE
WARDROBE.

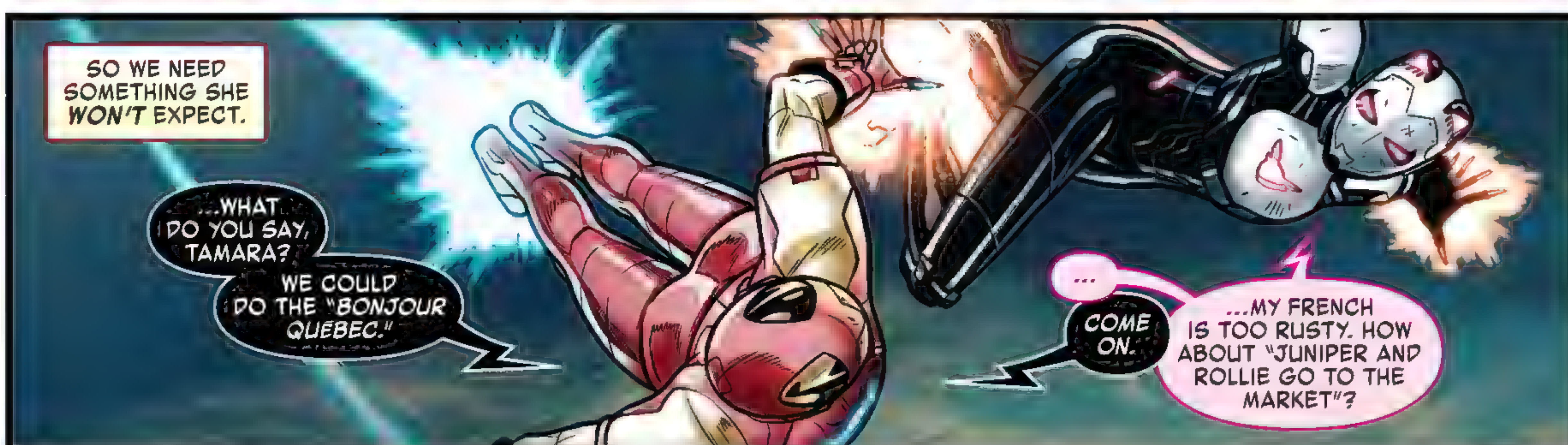
OH, AND
OUR SCHEMES ARE
BEING EAVESDROPPED
ON BY THE ONE WHO WANTS
TO KILL BOTH US AND
MILLIONS OF STRANGERS.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED
ONE HELL OF A
SCAM.

THOUGHTS,
LADIES?



I'VE RUN UP AGAINST
SUNSET BAIN AND/OR
MADAME MENACE ANY
NUMBER OF TIMES.

SHE KNOWS HOW I THINK.
HOW I MAKE MOVES.
ANYTHING I COME UP
WITH, SHE'S GOING
TO SEE COMING.



SO WE NEED
SOMETHING SHE
WON'T EXPECT.

...WHAT
DO YOU SAY,
TAMARA?

WE COULD
DO THE "BONJOUR
QUEBEC."

...
COME
ON.

...MY FRENCH
IS TOO RUSTY. HOW
ABOUT "JUNIPER AND
ROLLIE GO TO THE
MARKET"?

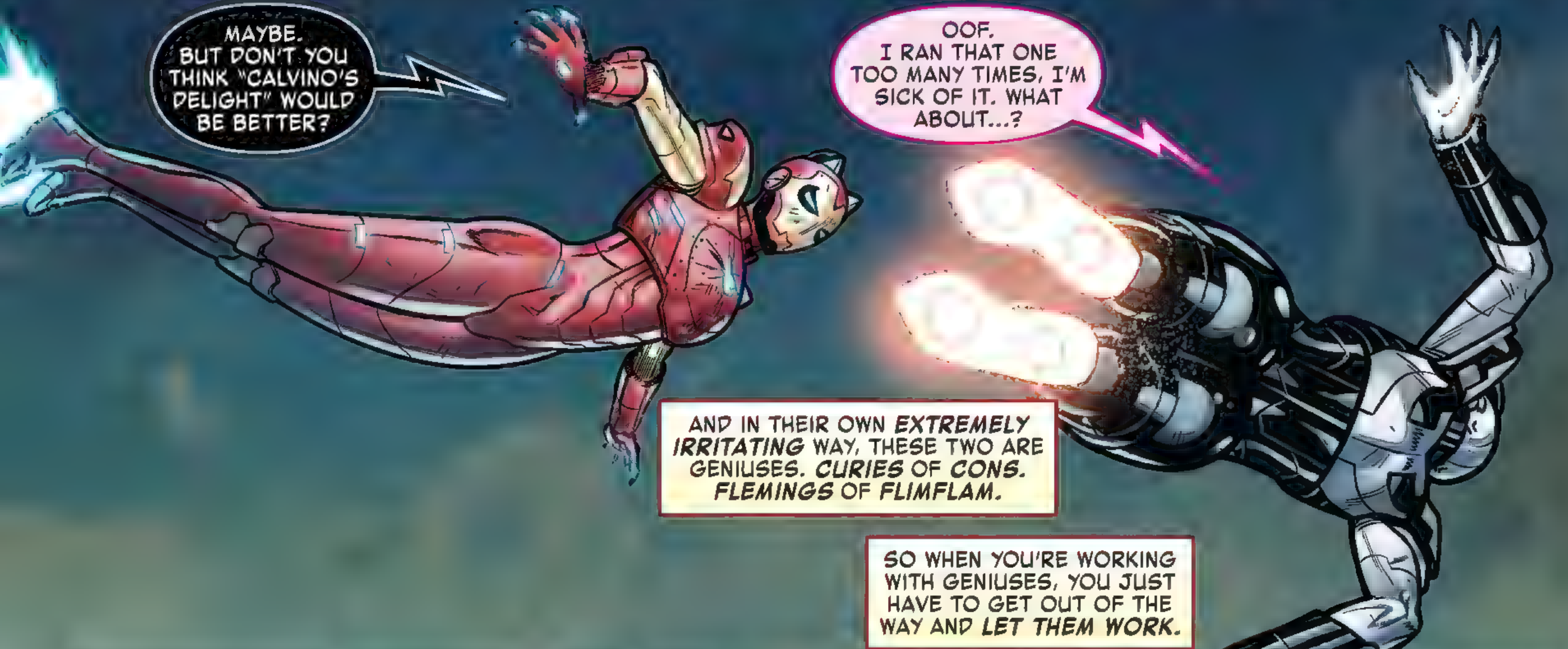


NO GOOD. MY WIG GUY IS OUT OF TOWN. MAYBE "THE CATALONIAN VICAR"?

THAT HAS NEVER WORKED. LET'S DO "THE TIME-TRAVELING OMBUDSMAN."

I USED TO DO A LOT OF BUSINESS. RUN A LOT OF COMPANIES.

WORKING IN BLEEDING EDGE TECH, I'VE HAD TO HANDLE A LOT OF *GENIUSES* (ASIDE FROM YOURS TRULY).



MAYBE. BUT DON'T YOU THINK "CALVINO'S DELIGHT" WOULD BE BETTER?

OOF. I RAN THAT ONE TOO MANY TIMES, I'M SICK OF IT. WHAT ABOUT...?

AND IN THEIR OWN *EXTREMELY IRRITATING* WAY, THESE TWO ARE *GENIUSES*. *CURIES OF CONS. FLEMINGS OF FLIMFLAM.*

SO WHEN YOU'RE WORKING WITH *GENIUSES*, YOU JUST HAVE TO GET OUT OF THE WAY AND *LET THEM WORK.*



UNTIL YOU CAN'T ANYMORE.

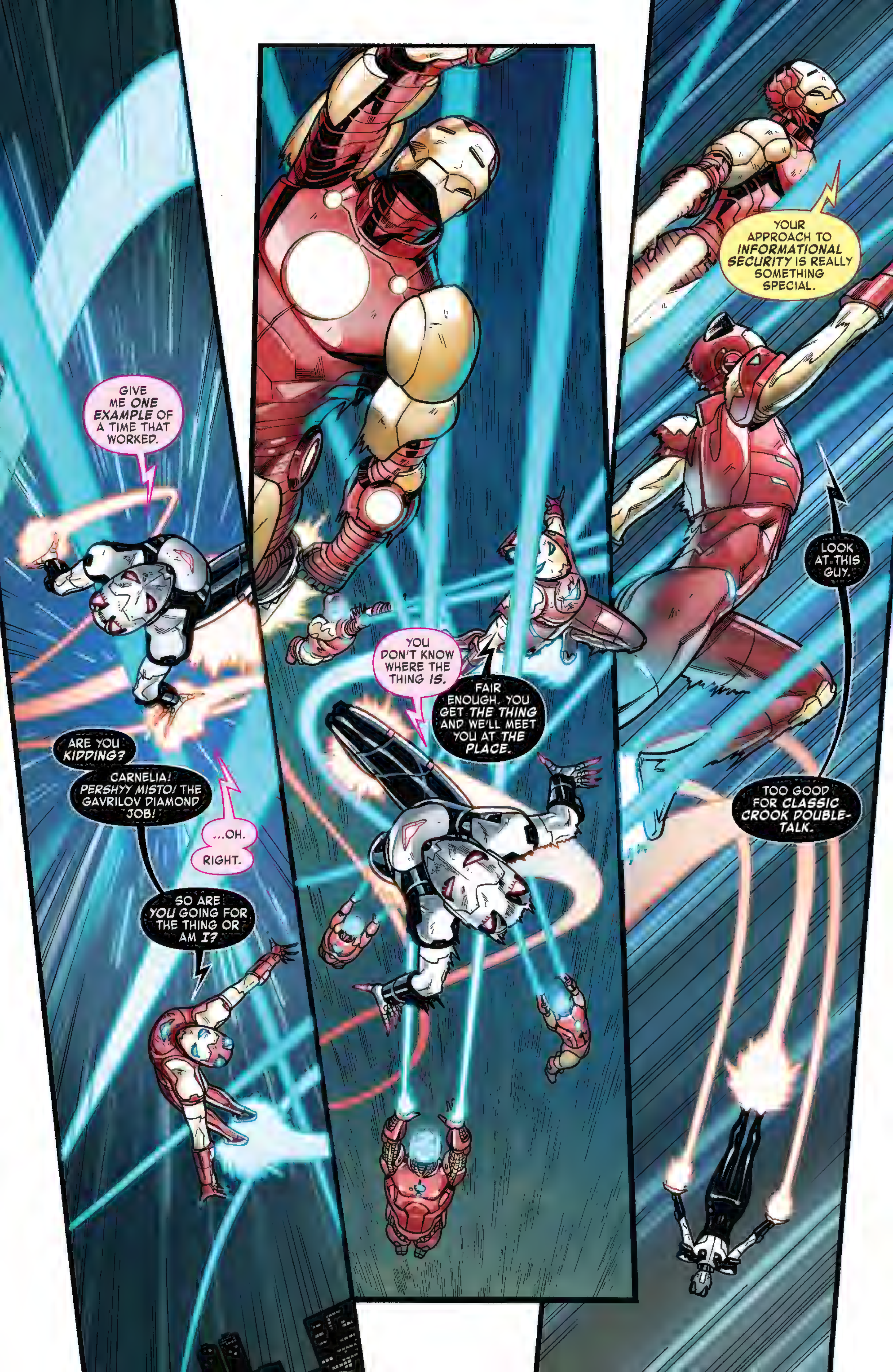
WHOOPS.



MORE BOGEYS INBOUND, LADIES. CONTACT IN TWO MINUTES PLUS TWENTY SECONDS.

GET READY TO FIGHT.

..."PRIDE AND EXTREME PREJUDICE"? COME ON, THAT'S GOT TO WORK.



GIVE ME ONE EXAMPLE OF A TIME THAT WORKED.

ARE YOU KIDDING?

CARNELIA! PERSHY MISTO! THE GAVRILOV DIAMOND JOB!

...OH. RIGHT.

SO ARE YOU GOING FOR THE THING OR AM I?

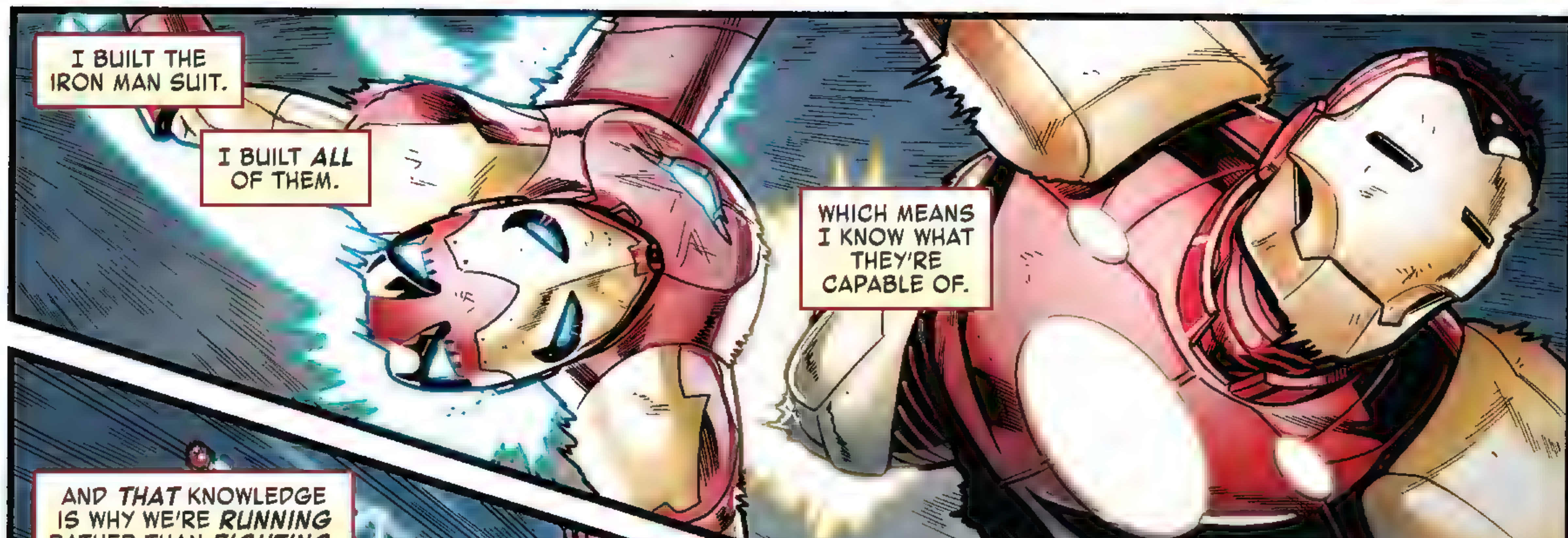
YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THE THING IS.

FAIR ENOUGH, YOU GET THE THING AND WE'LL MEET YOU AT THE PLACE.

YOUR APPROACH TO INFORMATIONAL SECURITY IS REALLY SOMETHING SPECIAL.

LOOK AT THIS GUY.

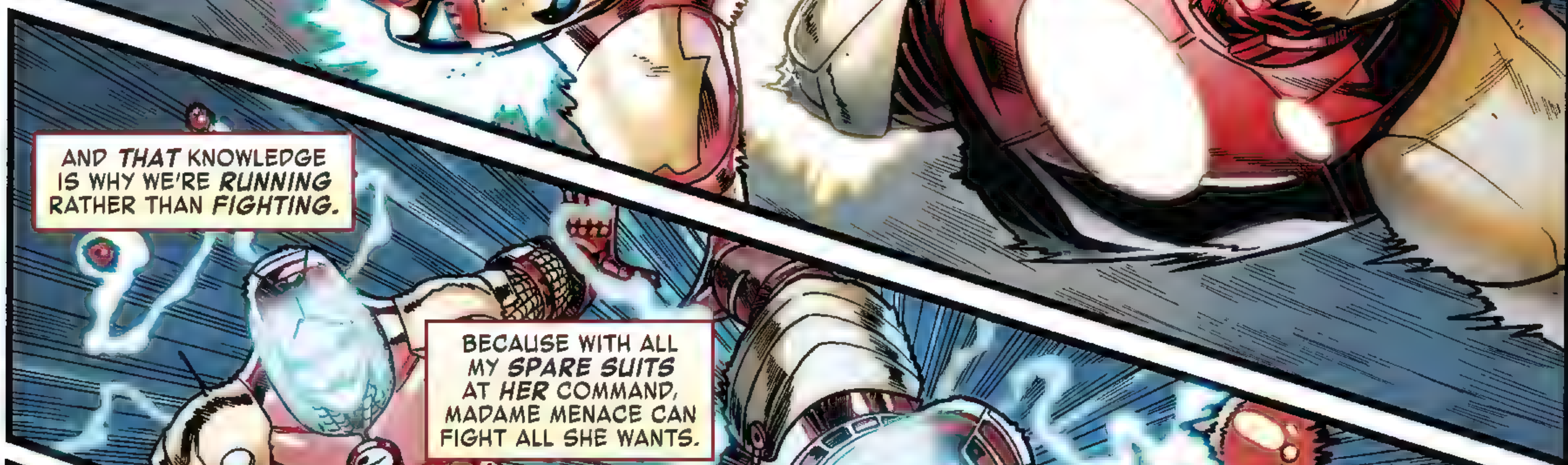
TOO GOOD FOR CLASSIC CROOK DOUBLE-TALK.



I BUILT THE
IRON MAN SUIT.

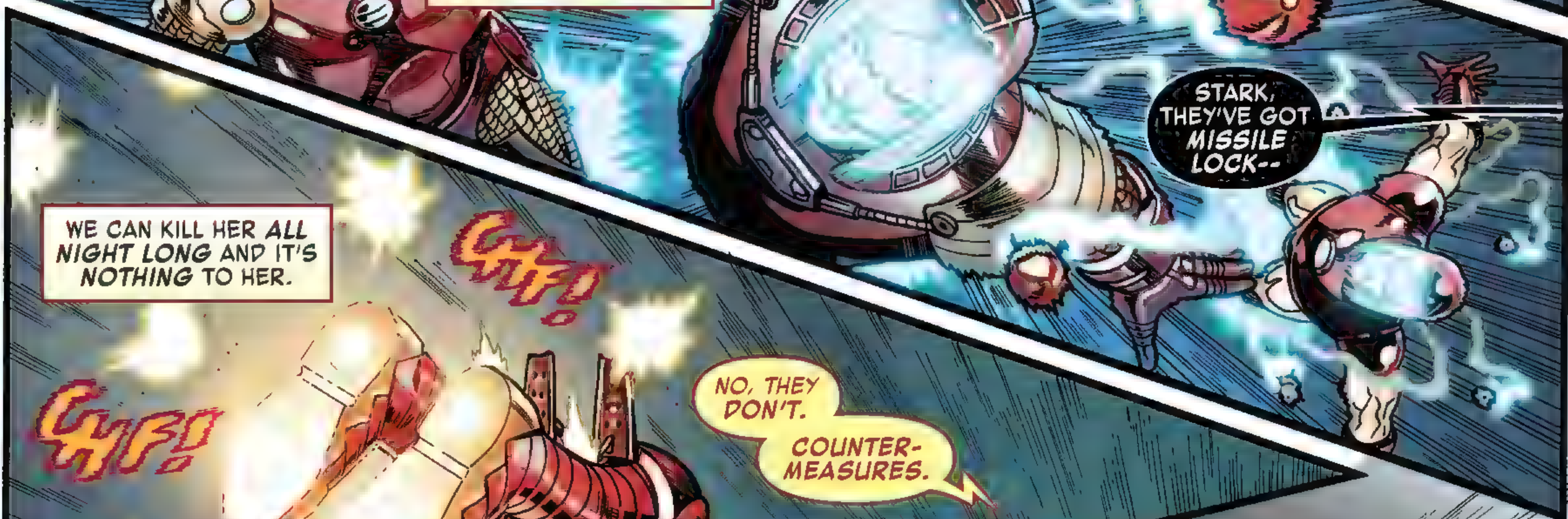
I BUILT ALL
OF THEM.

WHICH MEANS
I KNOW WHAT
THEY'RE
CAPABLE OF.



AND THAT KNOWLEDGE
IS WHY WE'RE RUNNING
RATHER THAN FIGHTING.

BECAUSE WITH ALL
MY SPARE SUITS
AT HER COMMAND,
MADAME MENACE CAN
FIGHT ALL SHE WANTS.



WE CAN KILL HER ALL
NIGHT LONG AND IT'S
NOTHING TO HER.

STARK,
THEY'VE GOT
MISSILE
LOCK--

NO, THEY
DON'T.

COUNTER-
MEASURES.



WE'VE ONLY
GOT ONE BODY
APIECE. SHE'S
GOT DOZENS.

SHE JUST HAS
TO GET LUCKY
ONCE.



WHERE ARE WE GOING?

YOUR "HARD-LINKED ON-SITE TERMINALS."

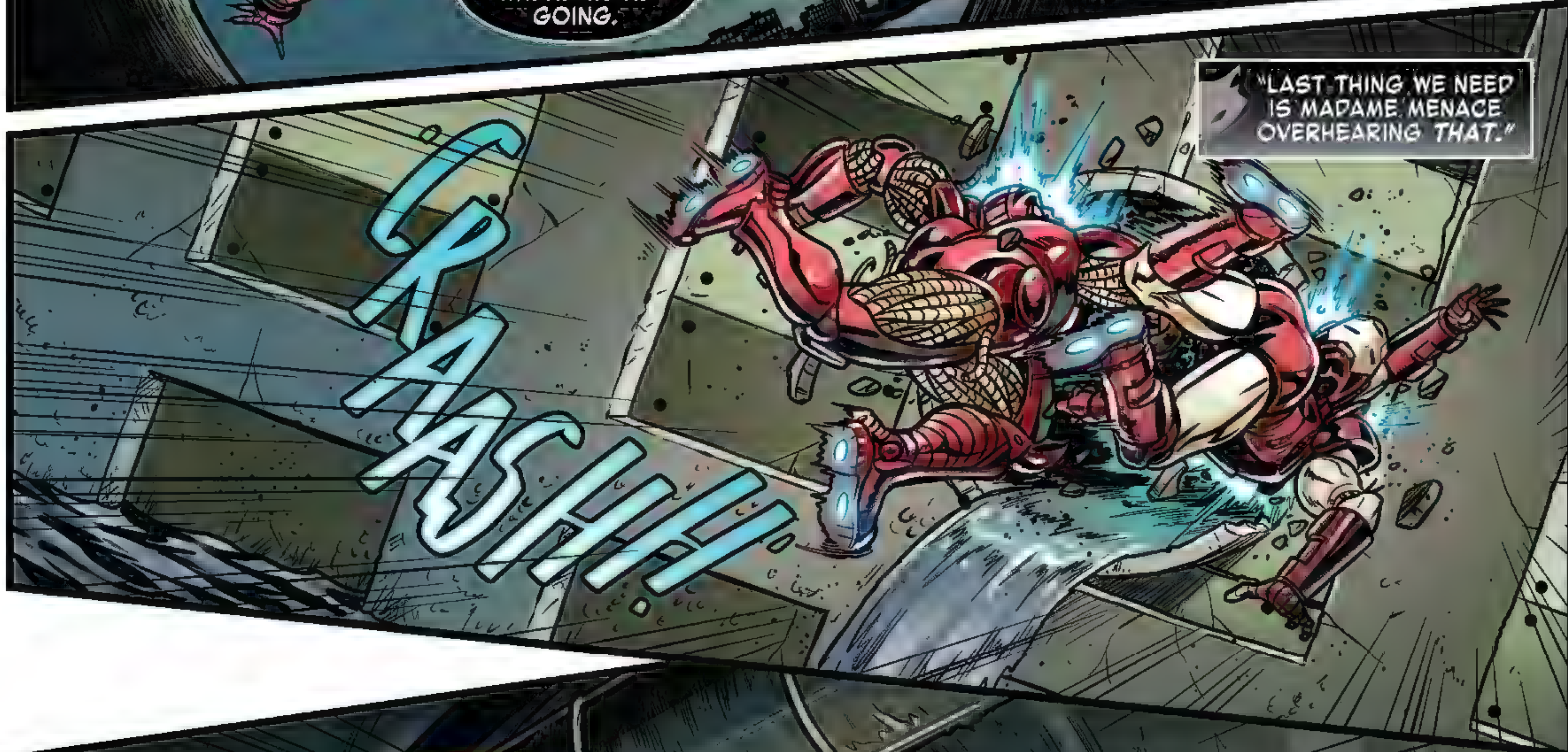
HOW MANY ARE THERE, AND WHERE ARE THEY?

THAT'S WHERE WE'RE LUCKY.



THERE ARE THREE IN THE CITY AND SURROUNDING AREA.

GREAT. THEN LEAD THE WAY, AND DON'T TELL ME WHERE WE'RE GOING.

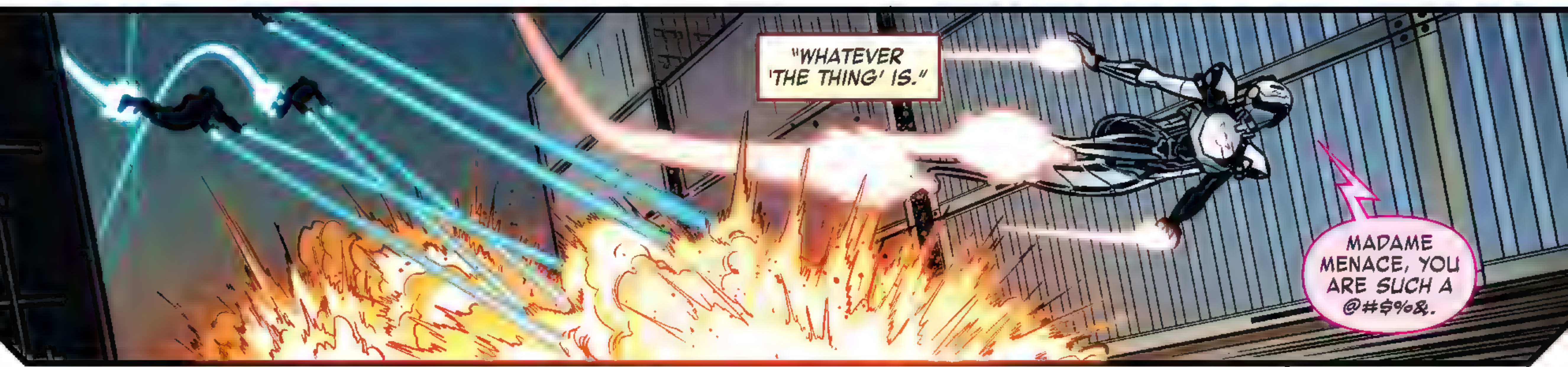


"LAST THING WE NEED IS MADAME MENACE OVERHEARING THAT."



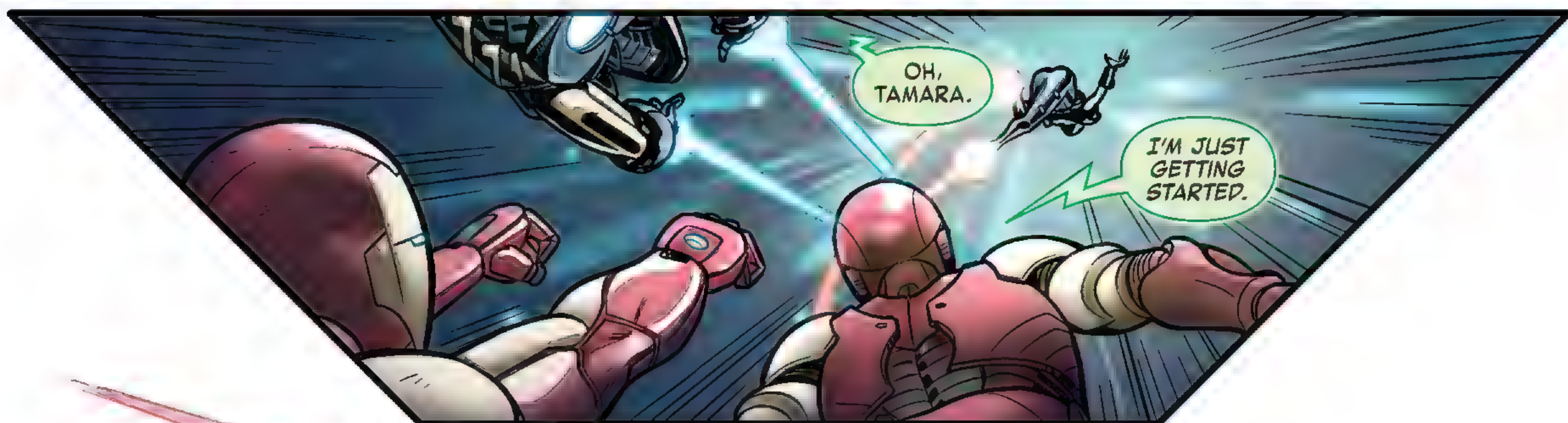
PLEASE. GIVE ME A LITTLE CREDIT.

JUST PROMISE ME THAT TAMARA IS GOING TO MAKE IT WITH THE THING.



"WHATEVER
'THE THING' IS."

MADAME
MENACE, YOU
ARE SUCH A
@#&%&.



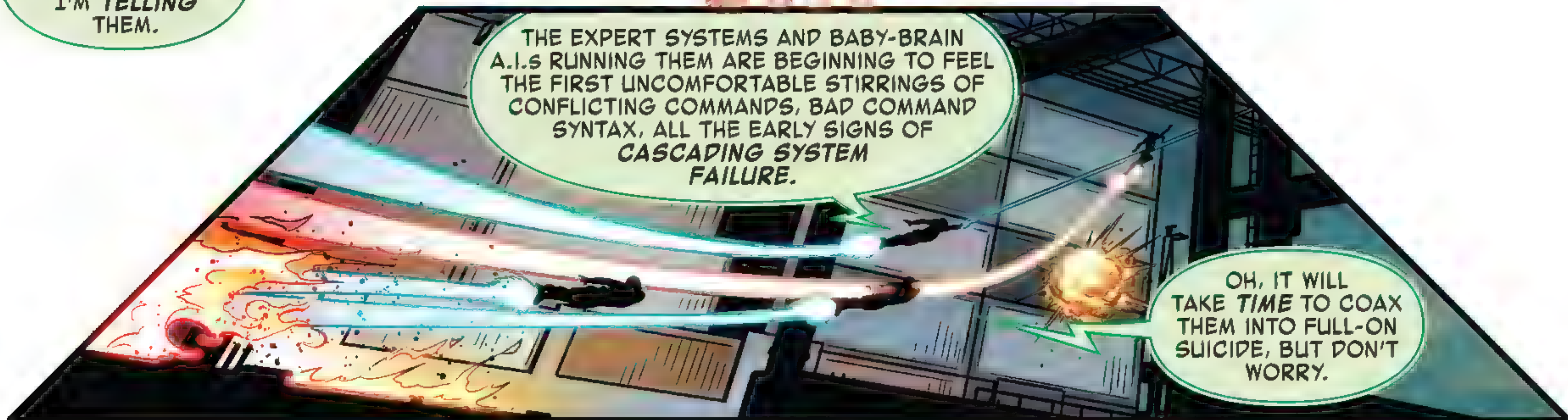
OH,
TAMARA.

I'M JUST
GETTING
STARTED.



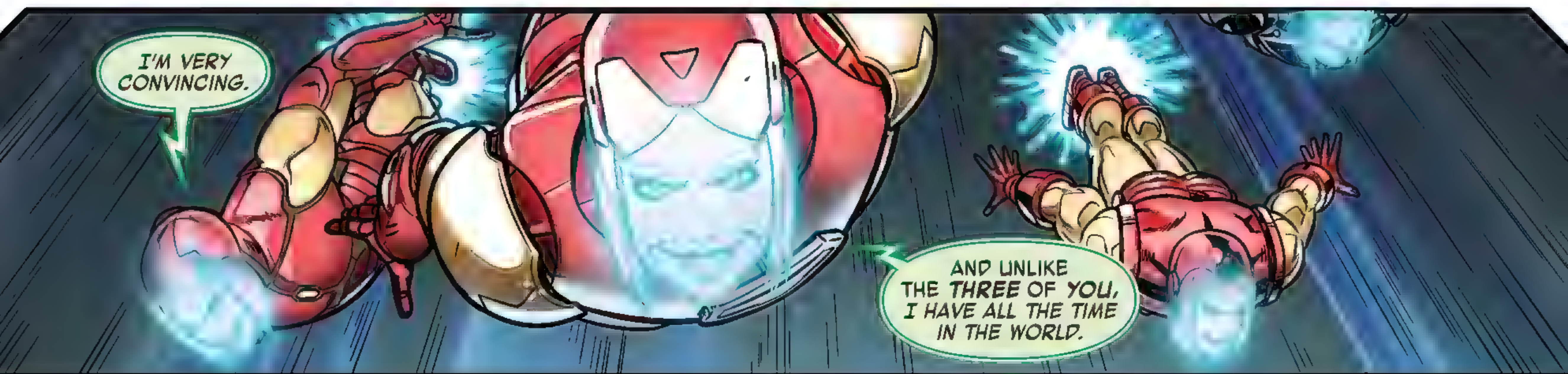
AS WE SPEAK,
STARK REACTORS
WORLDWIDE ARE WAKING
UP FROM THEIR LONG
SLUMBER, FROM YEARS
OF SOMNAMBULANT
SERVICE.

AND THEY
DON'T LIKE WHAT
THEY SEE, TAMARA.
DON'T LIKE WHAT
I'M TELLING
THEM.



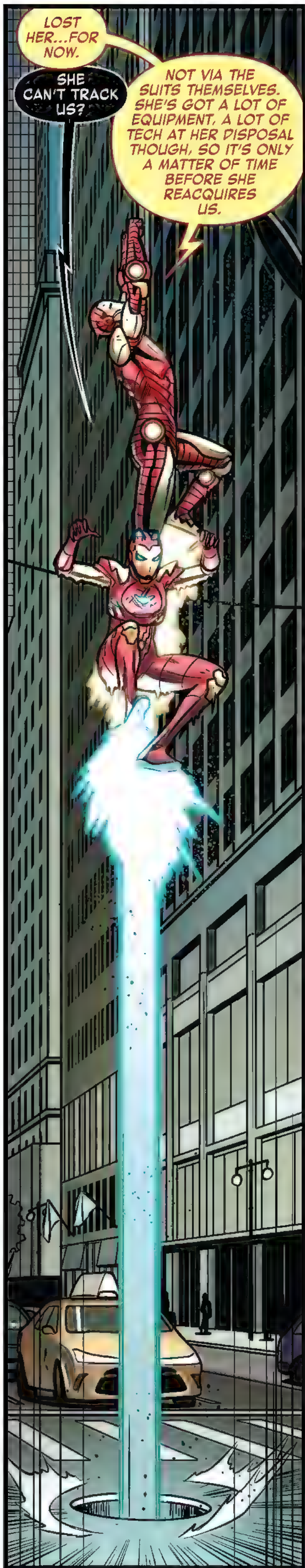
THE EXPERT SYSTEMS AND BABY-BRAIN
A.I.s RUNNING THEM ARE BEGINNING TO FEEL
THE FIRST UNCOMFORTABLE STIRRINGS OF
CONFLICTING COMMANDS, BAD COMMAND
SYNTAX, ALL THE EARLY SIGNS OF
CASCADING SYSTEM
FAILURE.

OH, IT WILL
TAKE TIME TO COAX
THEM INTO FULL-ON
SUICIDE, BUT DON'T
WORRY.



I'M VERY
CONVINCING.

AND UNLIKE
THE THREE OF YOU,
I HAVE ALL THE TIME
IN THE WORLD.



LOST
HER...FOR
NOW.

SHE
CAN'T TRACK
US?

NOT VIA THE
SUITS THEMSELVES.
SHE'S GOT A LOT OF
EQUIPMENT, A LOT OF
TECH AT HER DISPOSAL
THOUGH, SO IT'S ONLY
A MATTER OF TIME
BEFORE SHE
REACQUIRES
US.



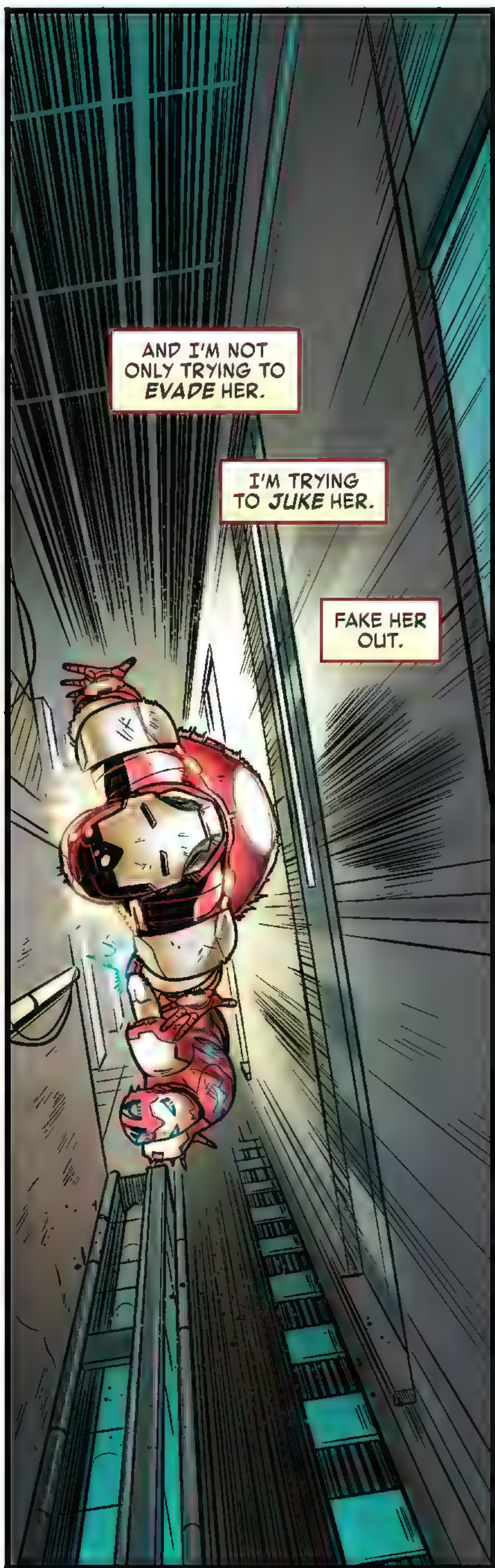
TRAFFIC WILL
HELP MASK OUR
SIGNATURES.

IT WON'T LAST LONG, AND
AS SOON AS SHE CLOCKS
US, WE'RE BACK UP IN THE
AIR AND AWAY FROM ANY
INNOCENT BYSTANDERS.



THAT'S WHY WE
HAVE TO KEEP
SWITCHING IT UP.

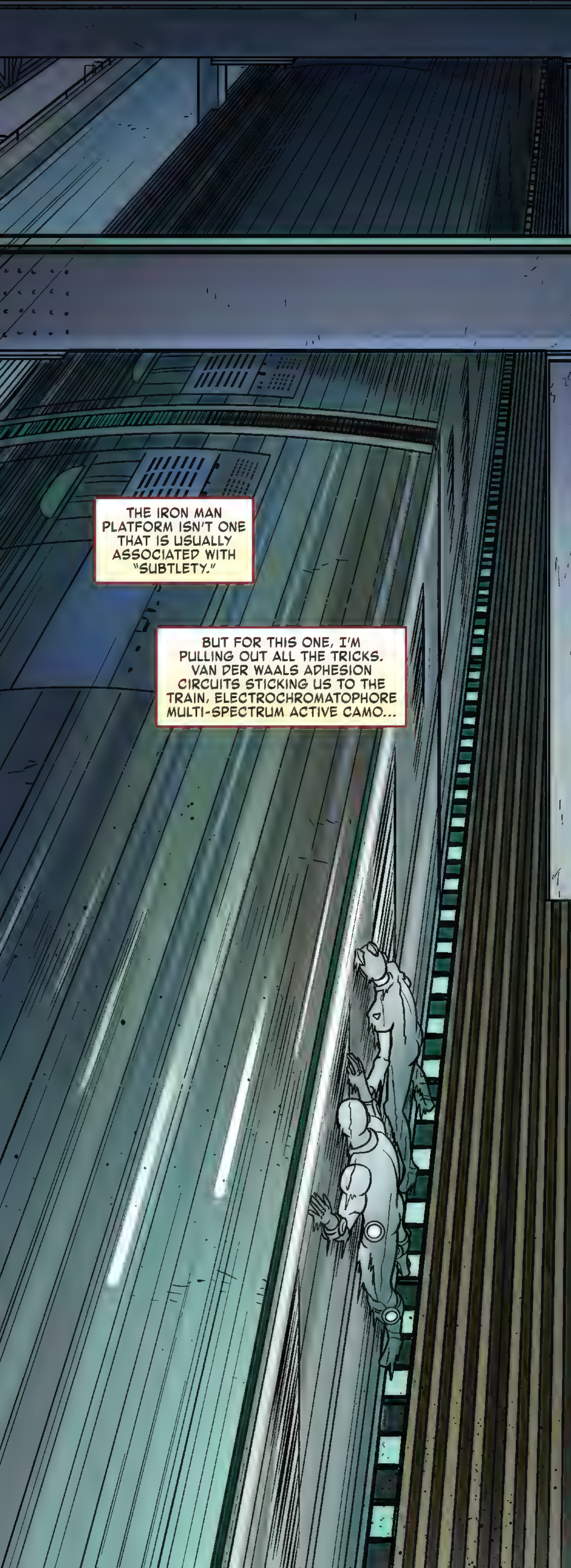
IF SHE'S GOT ACCESS
TO MY SATELLITES, OR
EVEN THE SATELLITES
THAT USED TO BE MINE,
THEN IT'S GOING TO BE
TOUGH TO EVADE HER.



AND I'M NOT
ONLY TRYING TO
EVADE HER.

I'M TRYING
TO JUKE HER.

FAKE HER
OUT.



THE IRON MAN
PLATFORM ISN'T ONE
THAT IS USUALLY
ASSOCIATED WITH
"SUBTLETY."

BUT FOR THIS ONE, I'M
PULLING OUT ALL THE TRICKS.
VAN DER WAALS ADHESION
CIRCUITS STICKING US TO THE
TRAIN, ELECTROCHROMATOPHORE
MULTI-SPECTRUM ACTIVE CAMO...



I DON'T
KNOW IF IT'S
GOING TO
BE ENOUGH.



BUT, WELL, IT'S
GOT TO BE.

BECAUSE
OUTSIDE OF MY
TRICKS...

...ALL I HAVE TO
COUNT ON ARE TWO
SUPER-THIEVES.

FELICIA...
I DON'T KNOW
IF YOU CAN HEAR
ME, I THINK *SHE'S*
JAMMING MY
COMMS...

...BUT
THINGS AREN'T
LOOKING *GOOD*
OVER HERE.

I CAN'T
SHAKE THEM.

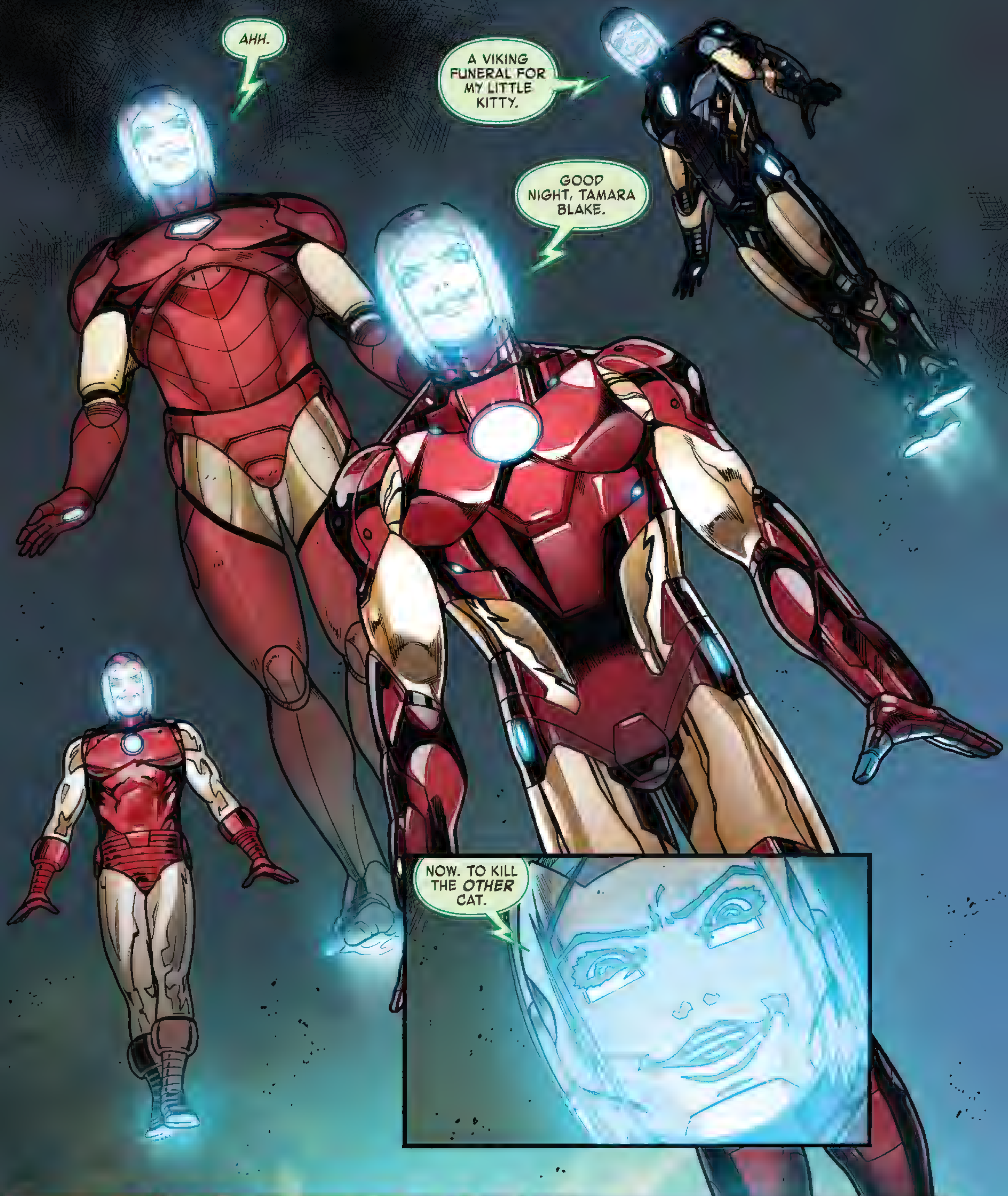
AGHHH!

WASH-HH

FELICIA,
I--

--I'M
SORRY--





STARK SWITCHING
FACILITY, NEW JERSEY

"...OR DO I LET HIM
LIVE TO SEE WHAT
I DO TO HIS NAME?"

"PERHAPS I'LL
FLIP A COIN."

NOW LET'S
SEE HOW IT ALL
WORKED OUT.

LET'S SEE IF ALL MY
JUKING AND JIVING
WAS WORTH IT.

LET'S SEE IF
OUR THREE-CARD
MONTE WORKED.

HI,
TONY.



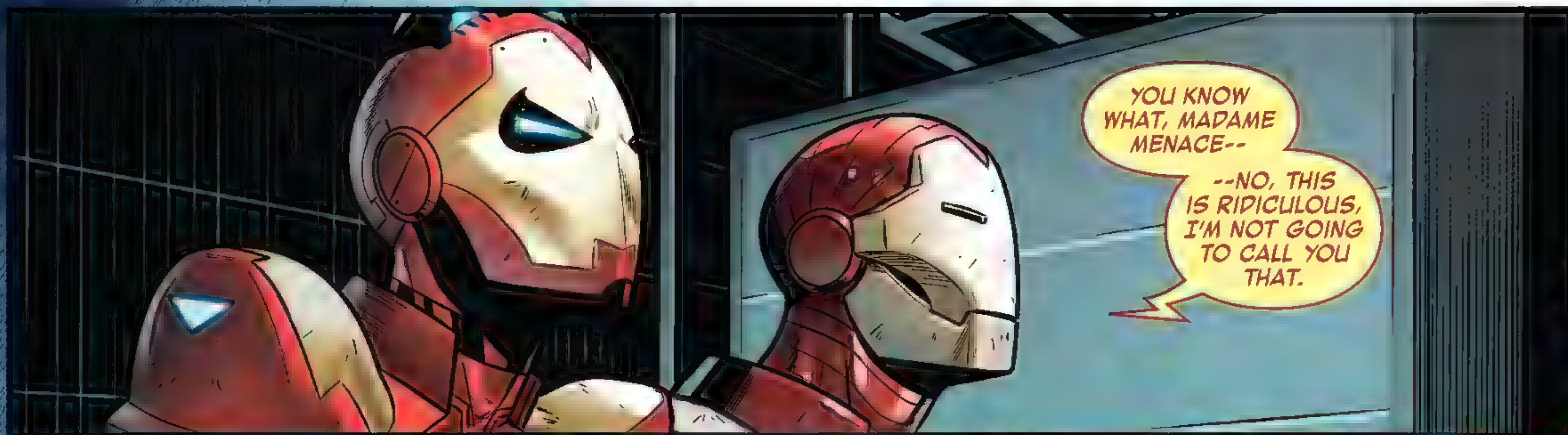
I KNOW
YOU, TONY.

I'VE
KNOWN
YOU FOR
YEARS.

I KNOW
HOW YOU
THINK.

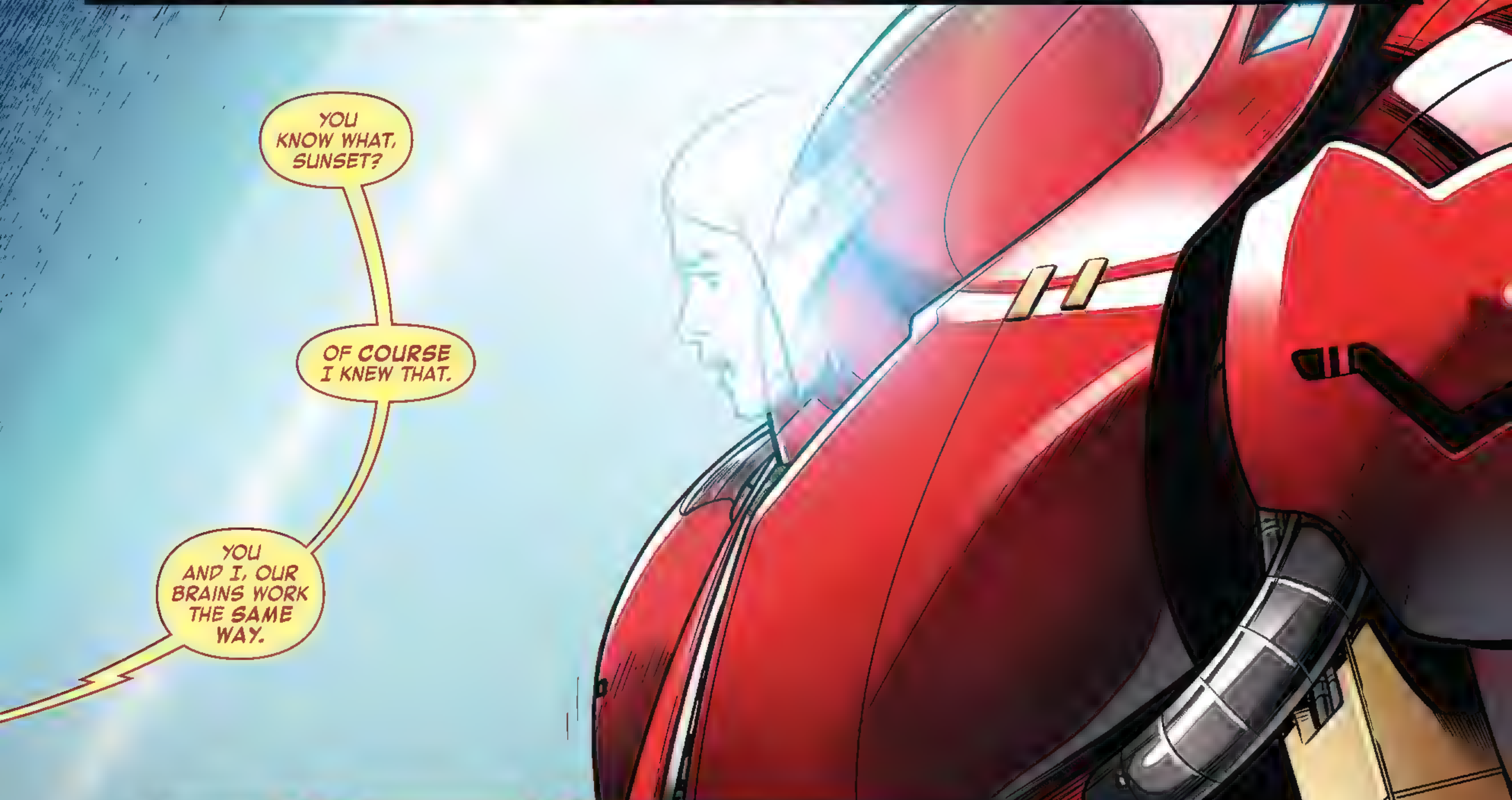
DID
YOU REALLY
THINK I WOULDN'T
ANTICIPATE WHICH
FACILITY YOU'D
PICK?

DID YOU REALLY
THINK I WOULDN'T HAVE
THE BIGGEST GUN I HAVE--
YOUR "HULKBUSTER"--
DEPLOYED WHERE I
KNEW YOU'D BE?



YOU KNOW
WHAT, MADAME
MENACE--

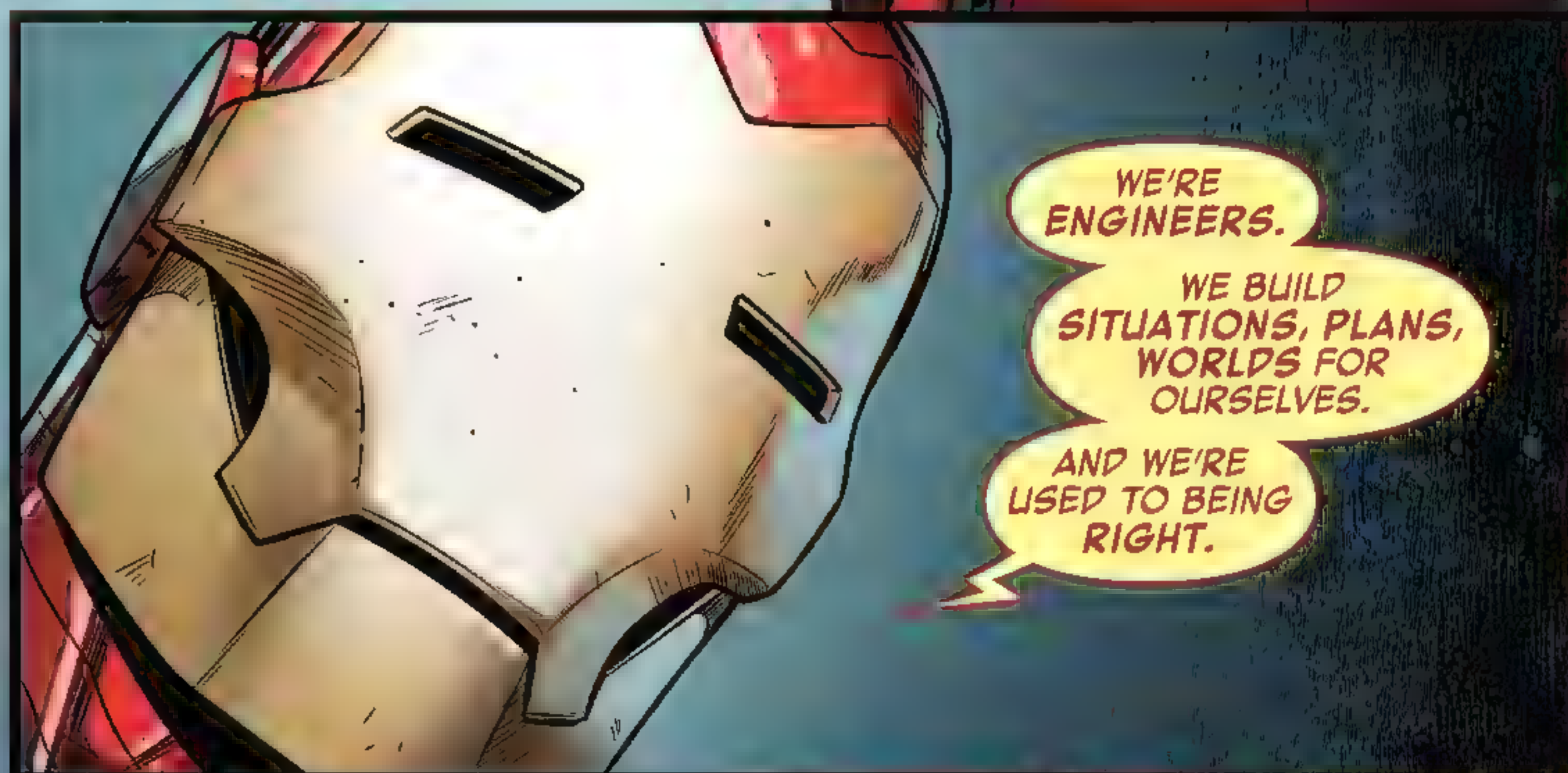
--NO, THIS
IS RIDICULOUS,
I'M NOT GOING
TO CALL YOU
THAT.



YOU
KNOW WHAT,
SUNSET?

OF COURSE
I KNEW THAT.

YOU
AND I, OUR
BRAINS WORK
THE SAME
WAY.



WE'RE
ENGINEERS.

WE BUILD
SITUATIONS, PLANS,
WORLDS FOR
OURSELVES.

AND WE'RE
USED TO BEING
RIGHT.



SO I
PULLED A ZIG
WHEN YOU WERE
EXPECTING A
ZAG.

I DID THE
LAST THING
YOU WOULD
EXPECT.

I USED
SOMEONE
ELSE'S
TRICK.

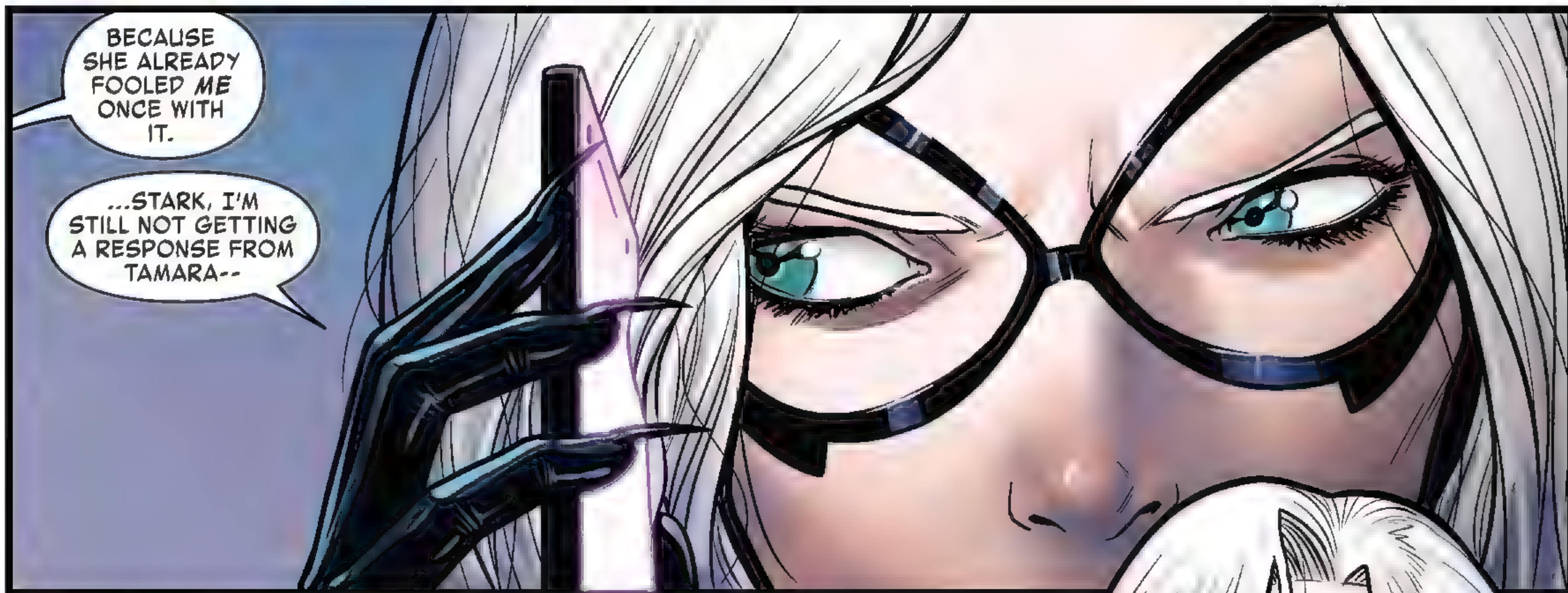
STARK DATA CORE,
BROOKLYN.

AND HOW
DID I KNOW IT
WAS A *GOOD*
TRICK?



BECAUSE
SHE ALREADY
FOOLED *ME*
ONCE WITH
IT.

...STARK, I'M
STILL NOT GETTING
A RESPONSE FROM
TAMARA--



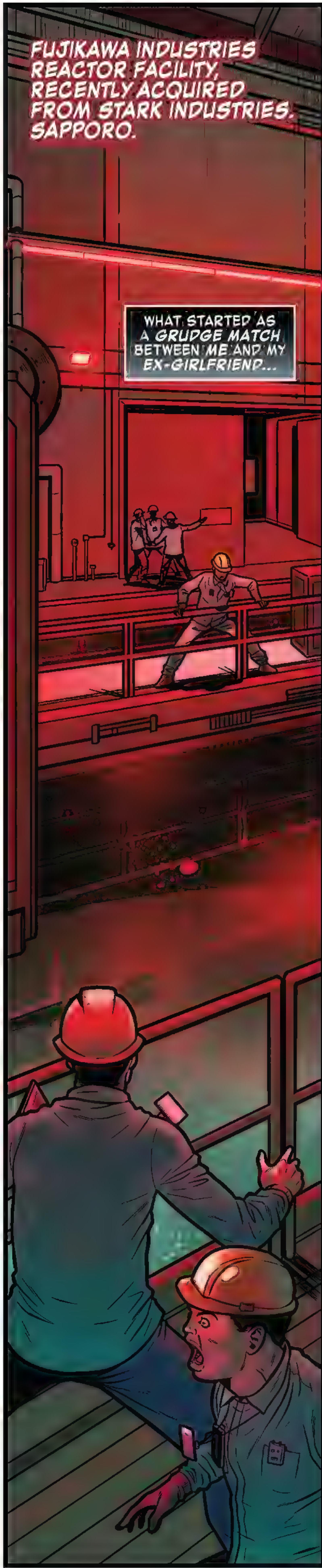
OH GOD.
YOU ACTUALLY
HAD ME WORRIED
THERE FOR A MOMENT.
YOU DON'T KNOW,
DO YOU?

TAMARA
BLAKE IS DEAD.

YOU'VE
HINGED YOUR
PLAN ON A DEAD
WOMAN.









--I WON'T
BE ALIVE TO
SEE IT.

THERE
YOU TWO
ARE.

CRASH!!!



BUT THAT'S
THEN.

I'LL
ADMIT
IT.

IT WAS
A GOOD
GAMBIT.



AND
BEFORE THAT
HAPPENS

BUT LETTING IT ALL
HINGE ON TAMARA
BLAKE? THE SHORT-
LIVED IRON
CAT?

THAT
WAS YOUR
MISTAKE.

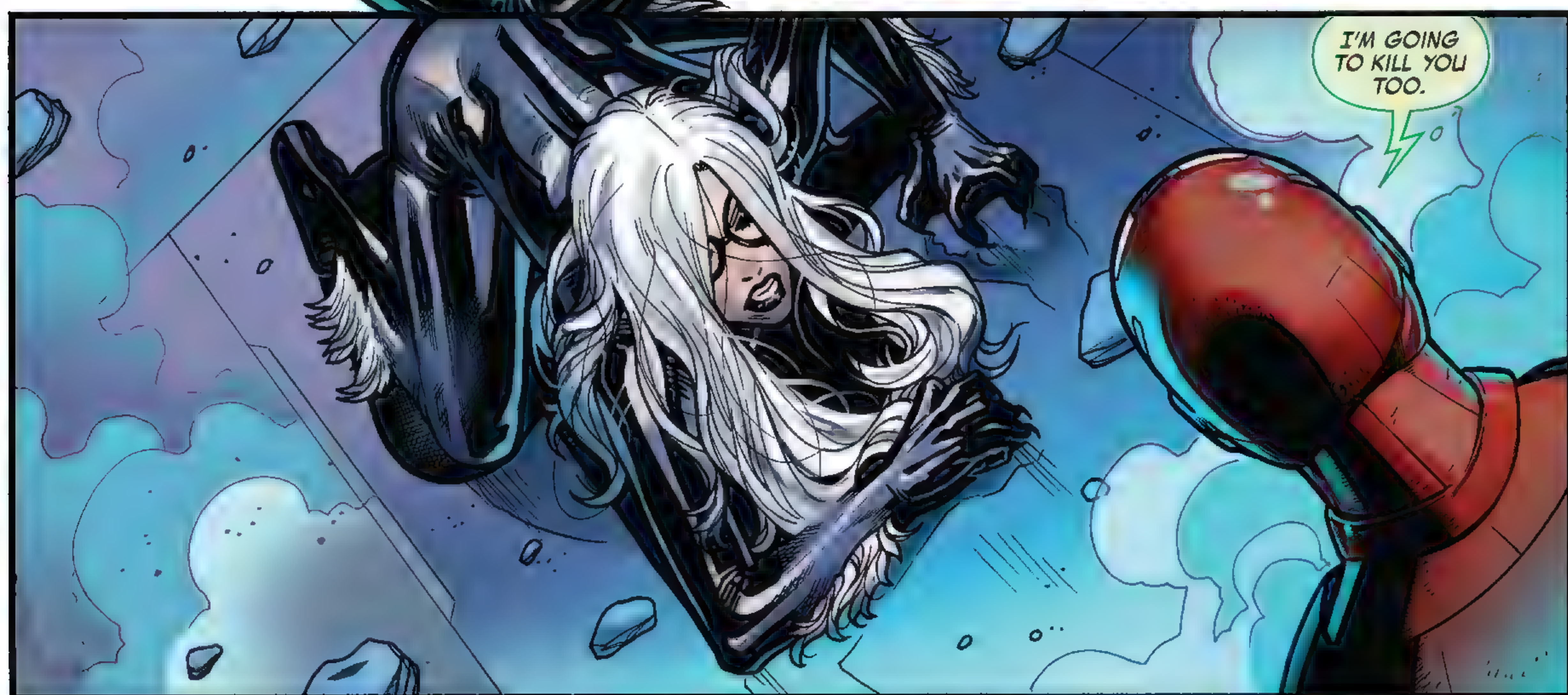
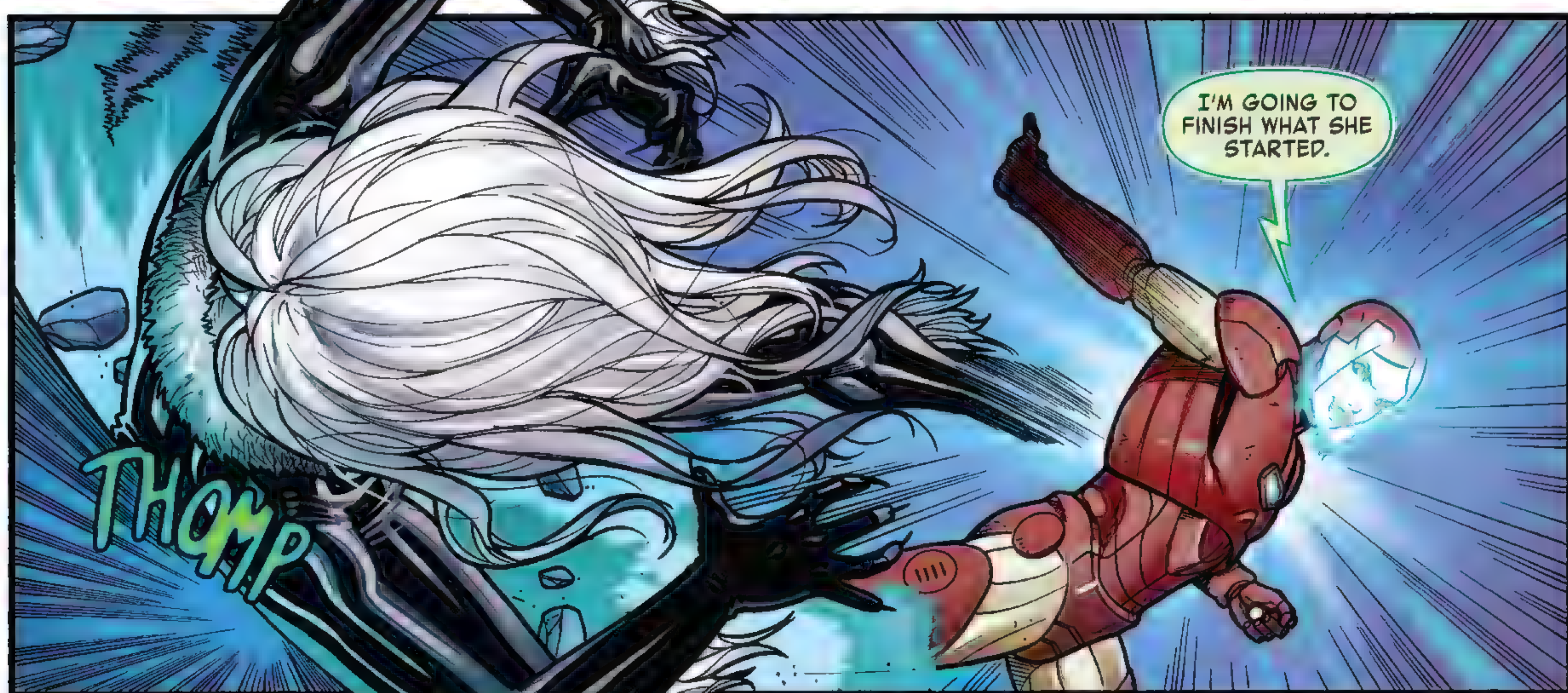
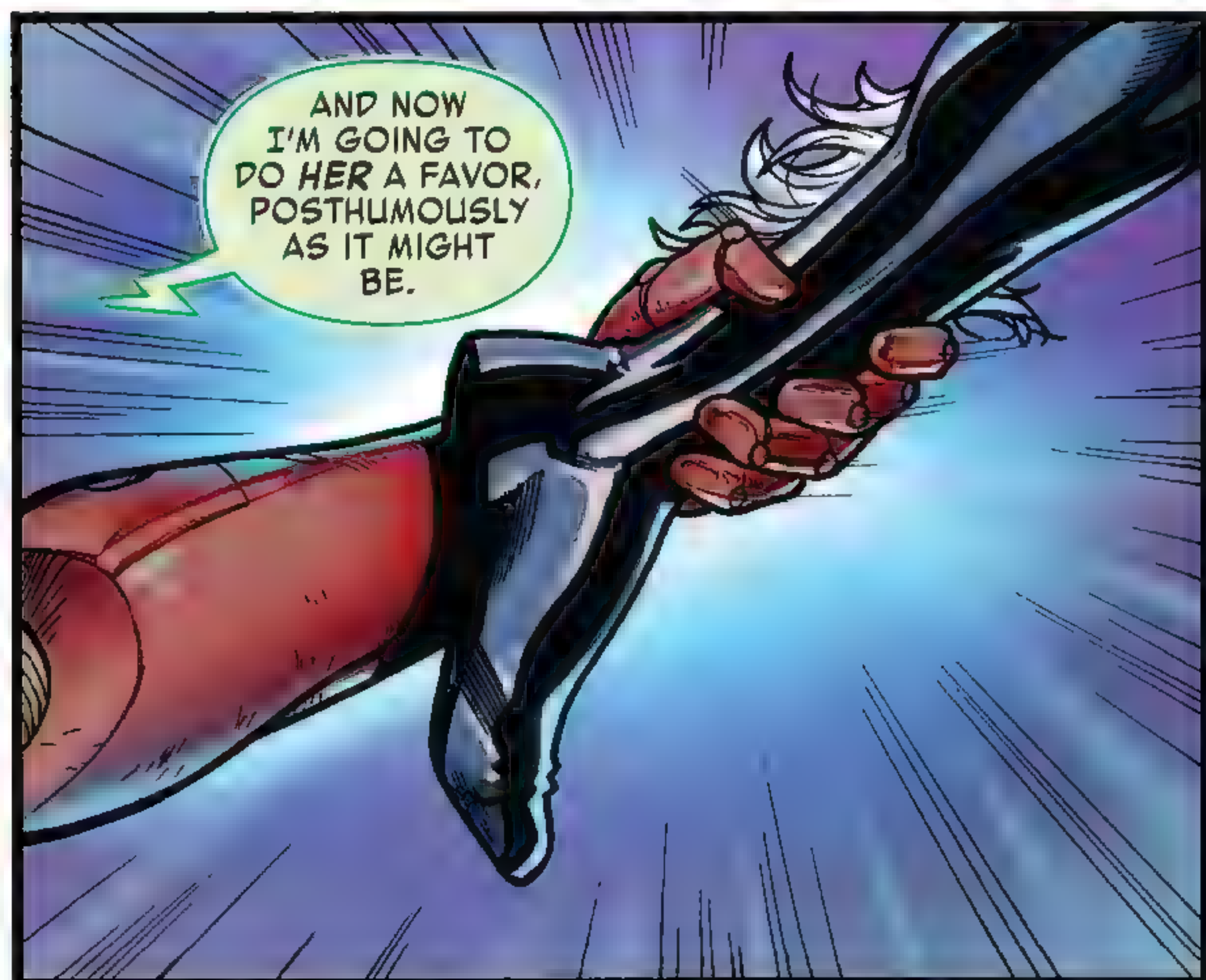
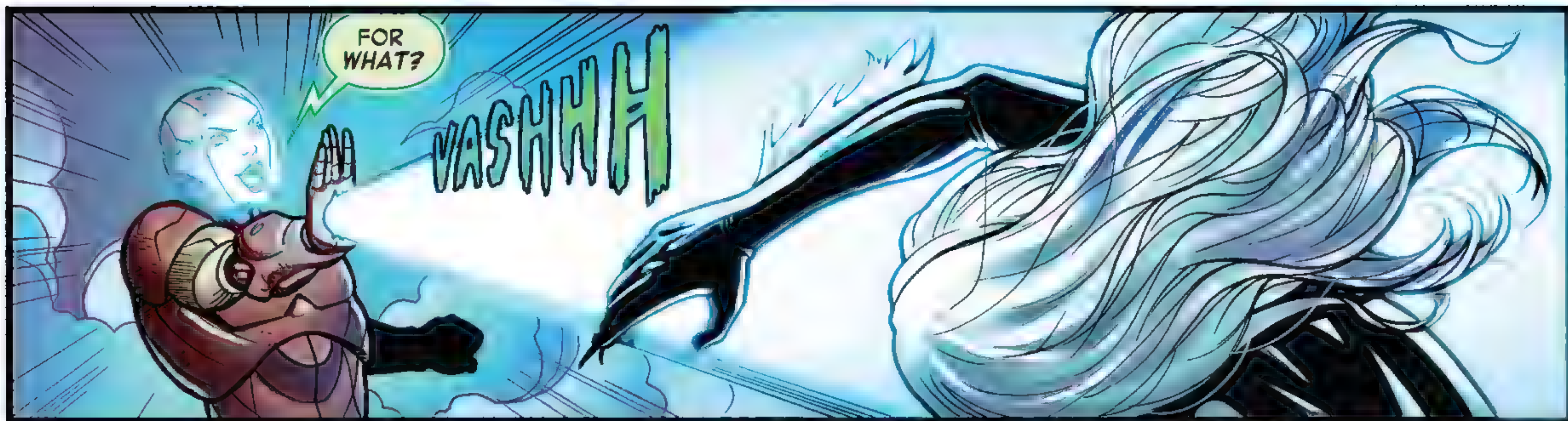
AS SHE'S
CURRENTLY EN EL
FUEGO, COOKED ALIVE
IN HER ARMOR LIKE A
CLAY-BAKED HEN.



I HAVE
BUSINESS

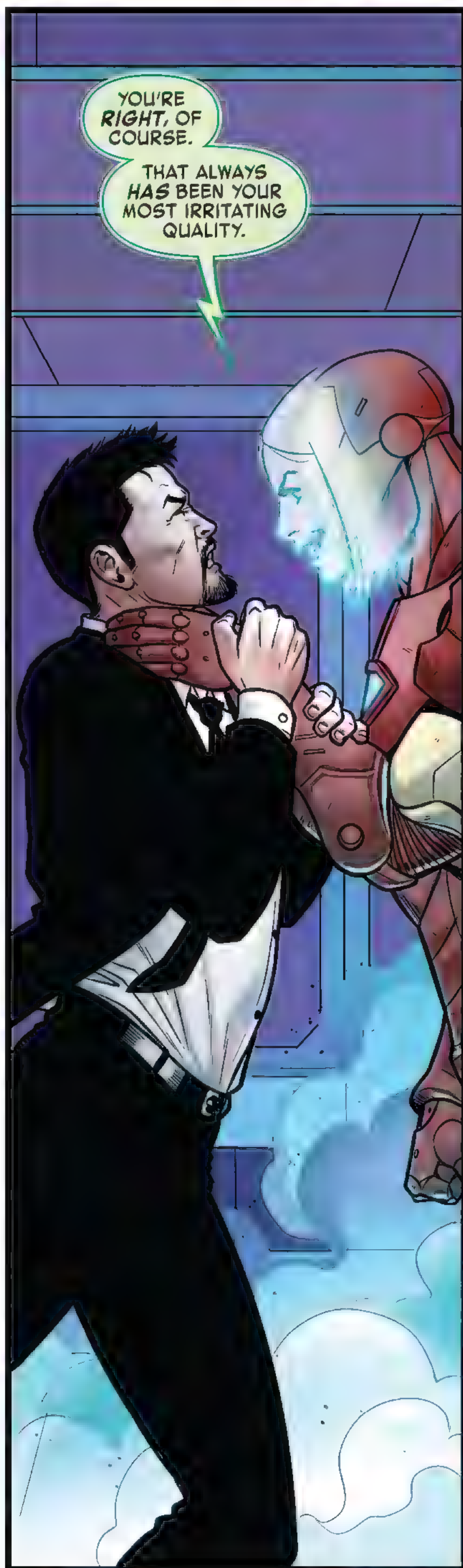
I DON'T
CARE WHAT IT
TAKES.

I'LL
SEE YOU DEAD
FOR THAT.





NO. THIS ISN'T ABOUT HER, SUNSET. THIS IS ABOUT YOU AND ME. IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN.



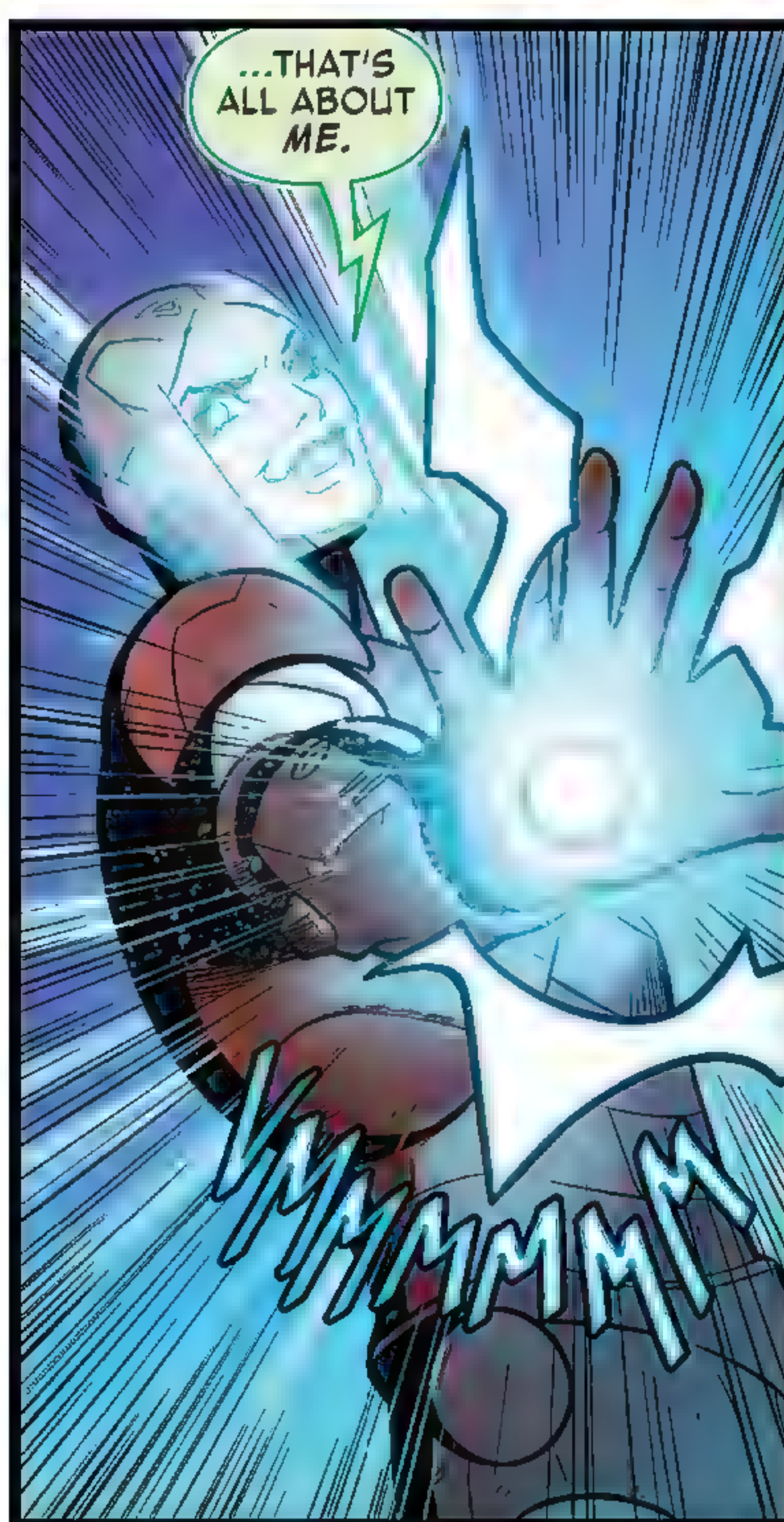
YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE.

THAT ALWAYS HAS BEEN YOUR MOST IRRITATING QUALITY.



THIS ISN'T ABOUT HER.

KILLING HER LIKE THIS, IN FRONT OF YOU WHEN YOU'RE POWERLESS TO STOP ME...



...THAT'S ALL ABOUT ME.

WAAAAAAAA



I WAS JAMMING HER COMMS, SO YOU COULDN'T HAVE HEARD IT...

...BUT HER LAST WORDS WERE "FELICIA, I'M SORRY--"

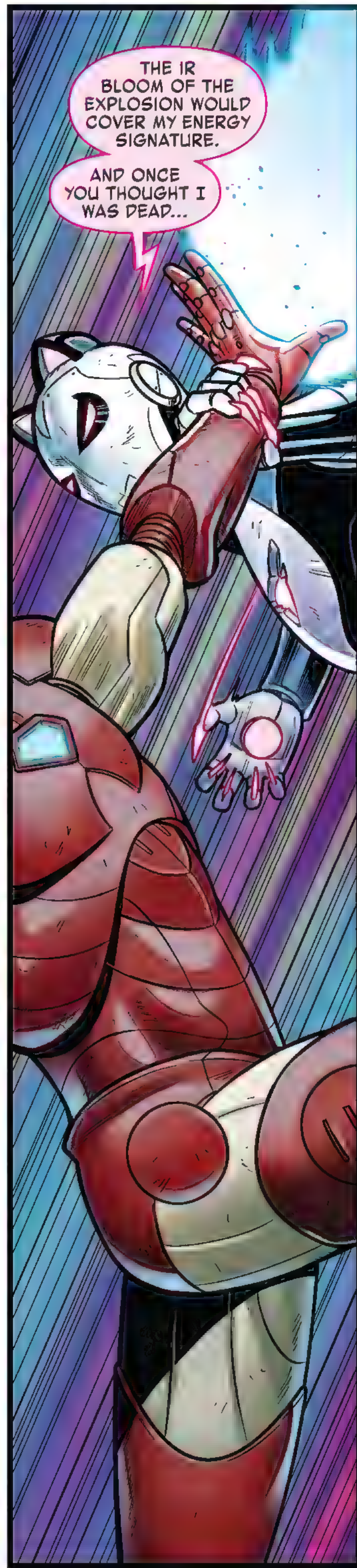
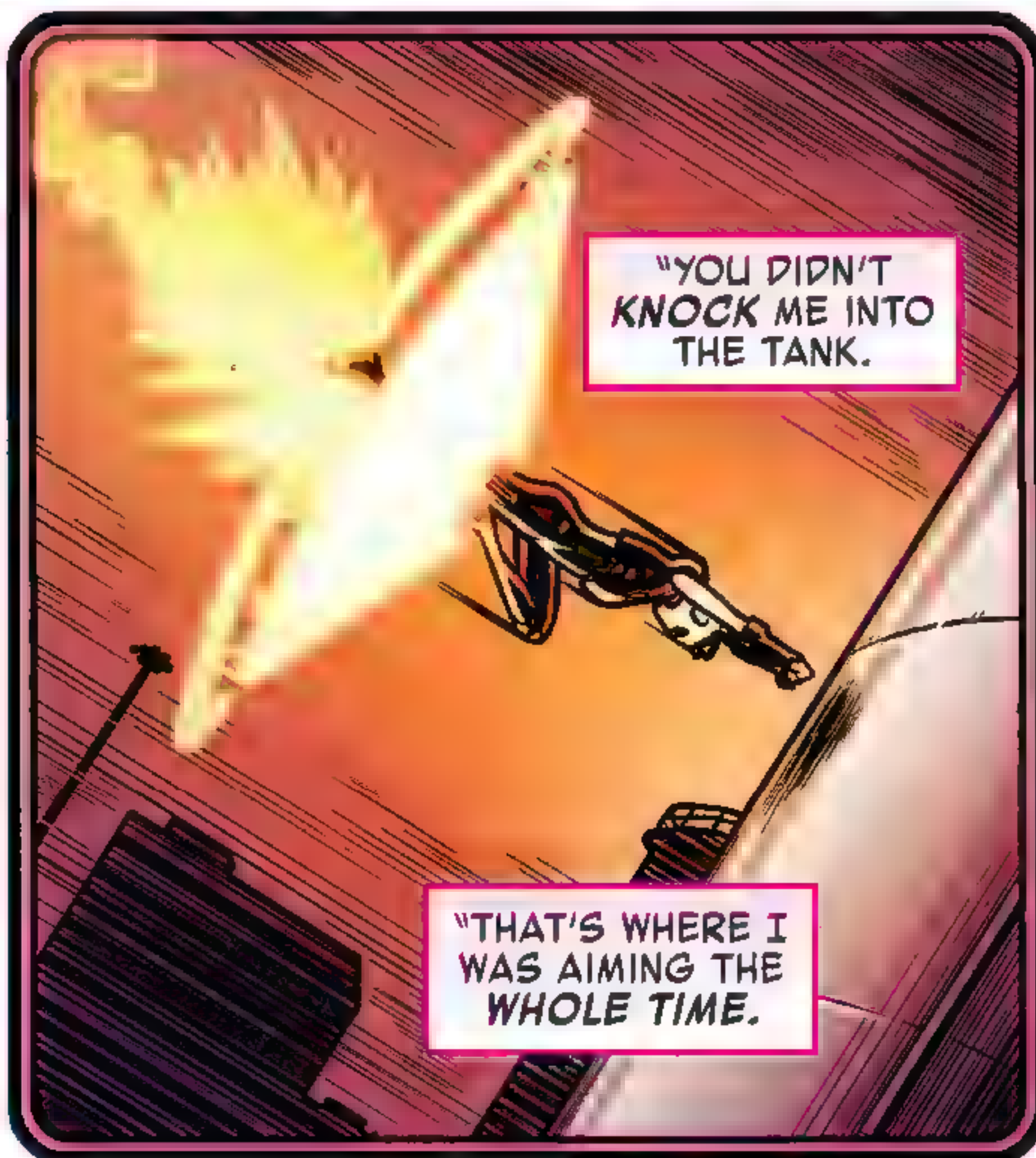
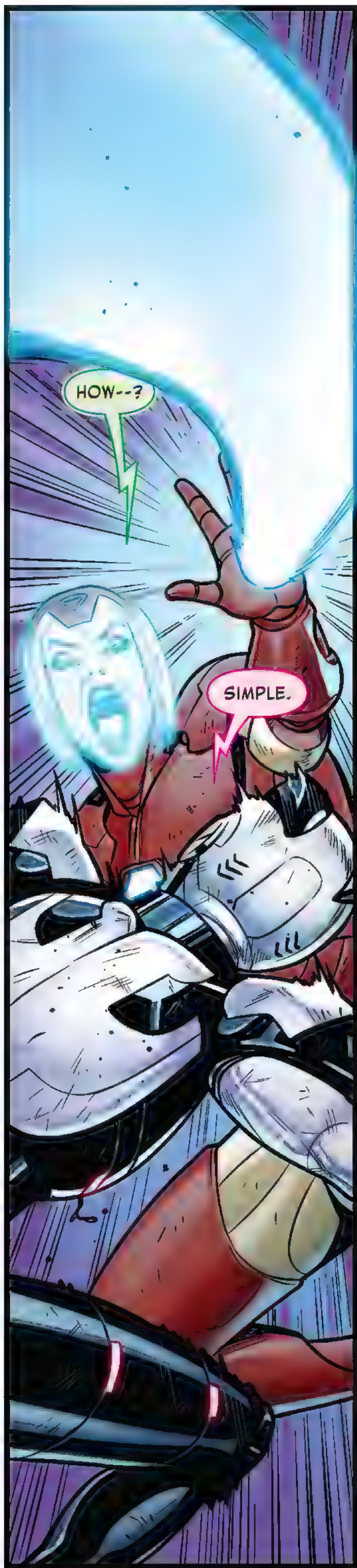
HILARIOUS.



YEAH,
WELL...

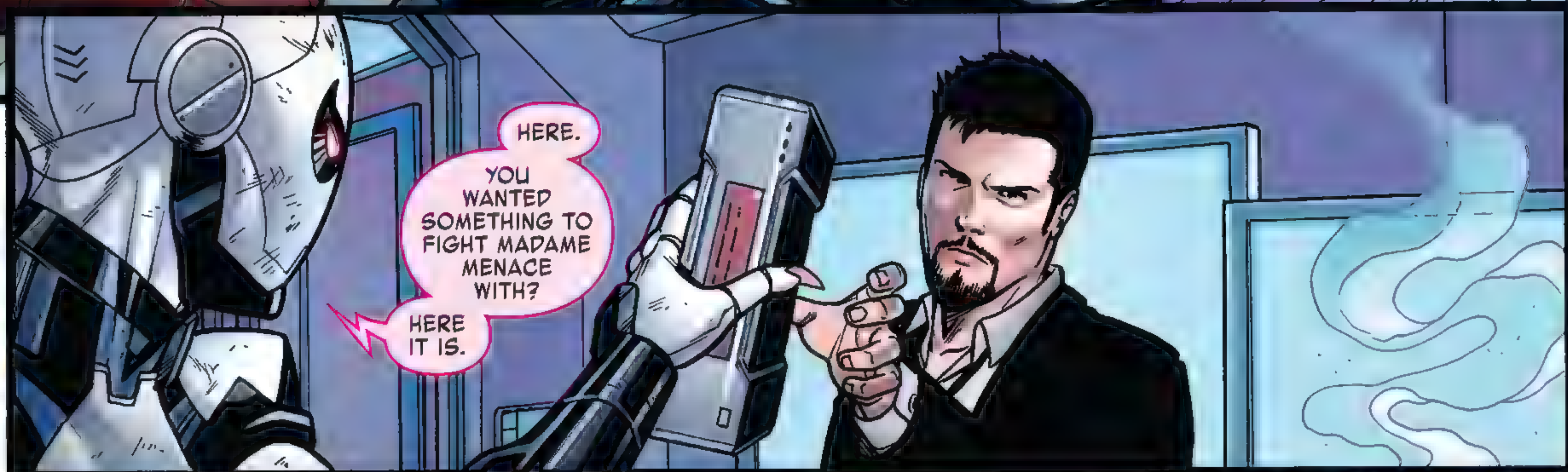
...I HAD
TO SELL IT,
DIDN'T I?

FLASH!





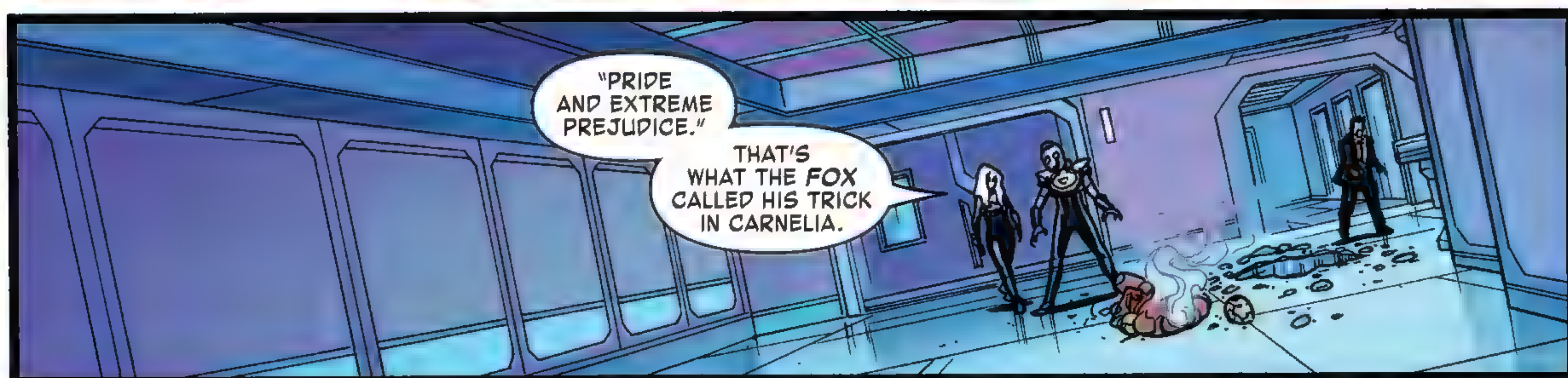
...THEN
I COULD GET
THE THING.



HERE.

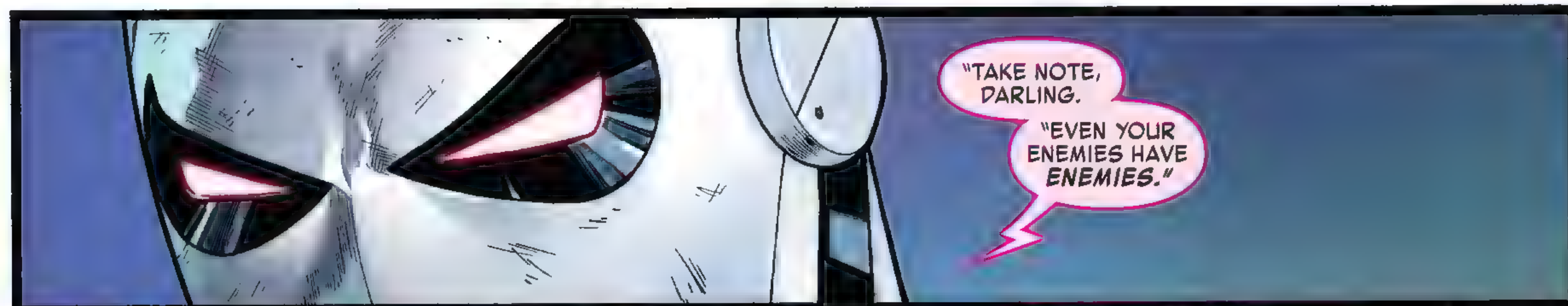
YOU
WANTED
SOMETHING TO
FIGHT MADAME
MENACE
WITH?

HERE
IT IS.



"PRIDE
AND EXTREME
PREJUDICE."

THAT'S
WHAT THE FOX
CALLED HIS TRICK
IN CARNELIA.



"TAKE NOTE,
DARLING.

"EVEN YOUR
ENEMIES HAVE
ENEMIES."



WHICH
DOESN'T MAKE
THEM YOUR
FRIENDS, MIND
YOU.

BUT
USEFUL TOOLS,
CERTAINLY.



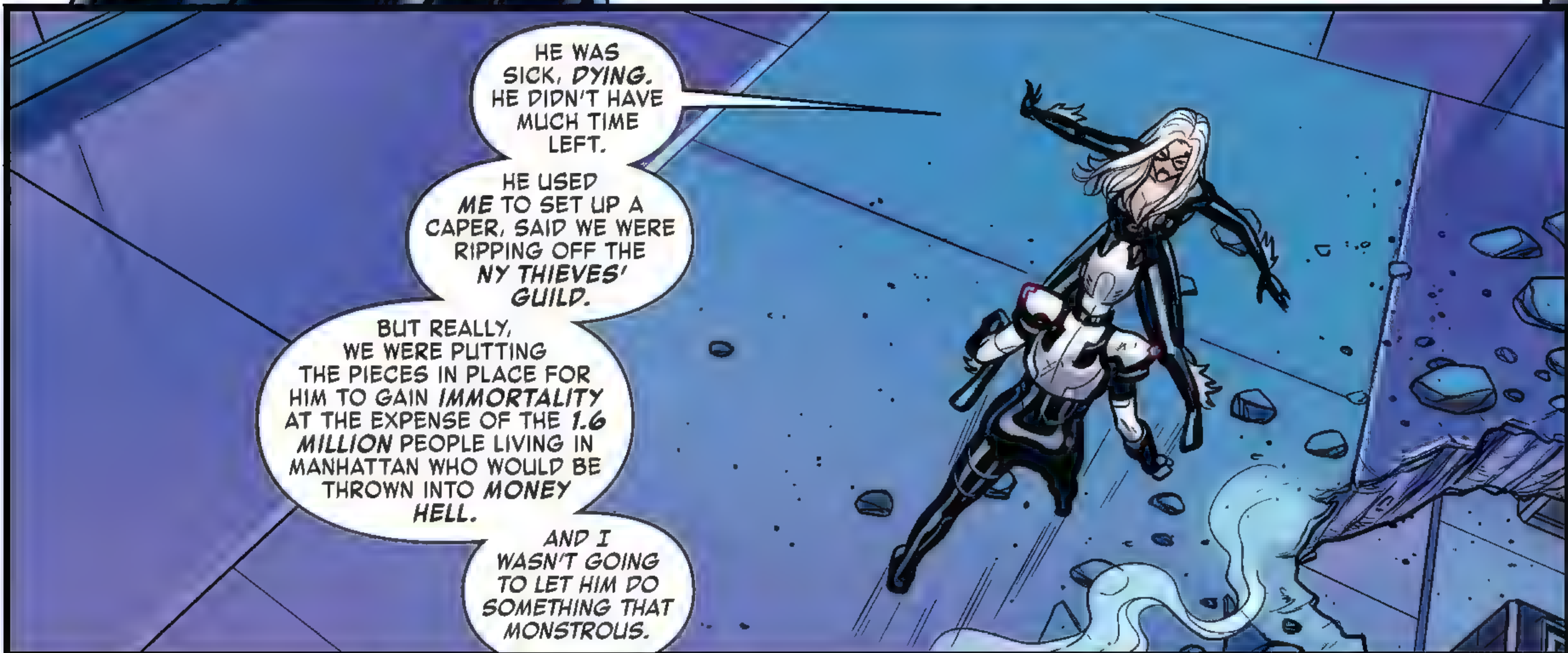
I MISS HIM TOO, YOU KNOW.

I MISS HIM LIKE HELL.

THEN WHY DID YOU KILL HIM, FELICIA?

I TOLD YOU:

BECAUSE HE DIDN'T LEAVE ME ANY OTHER CHOICE!

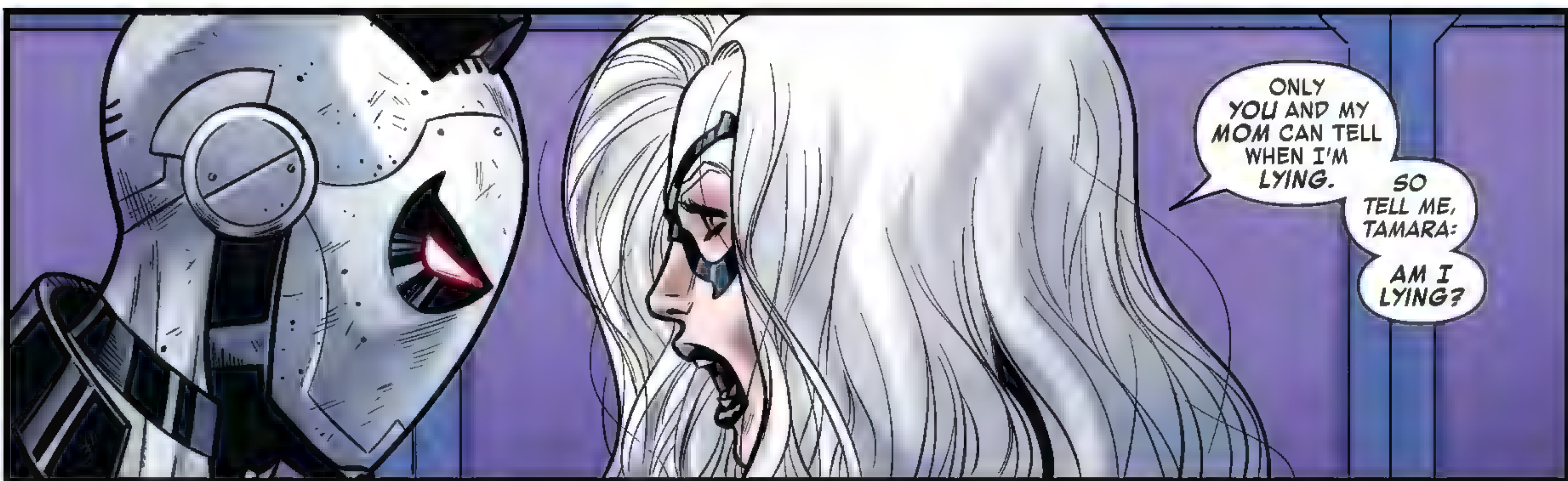


HE WAS SICK, DYING. HE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.

HE USED ME TO SET UP A CAPER, SAID WE WERE RIPPING OFF THE NY THIEVES' GUILD.

BUT REALLY, WE WERE PUTTING THE PIECES IN PLACE FOR HIM TO GAIN IMMORTALITY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE 1.6 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN MANHATTAN WHO WOULD BE THROWN INTO MONEY HELL.

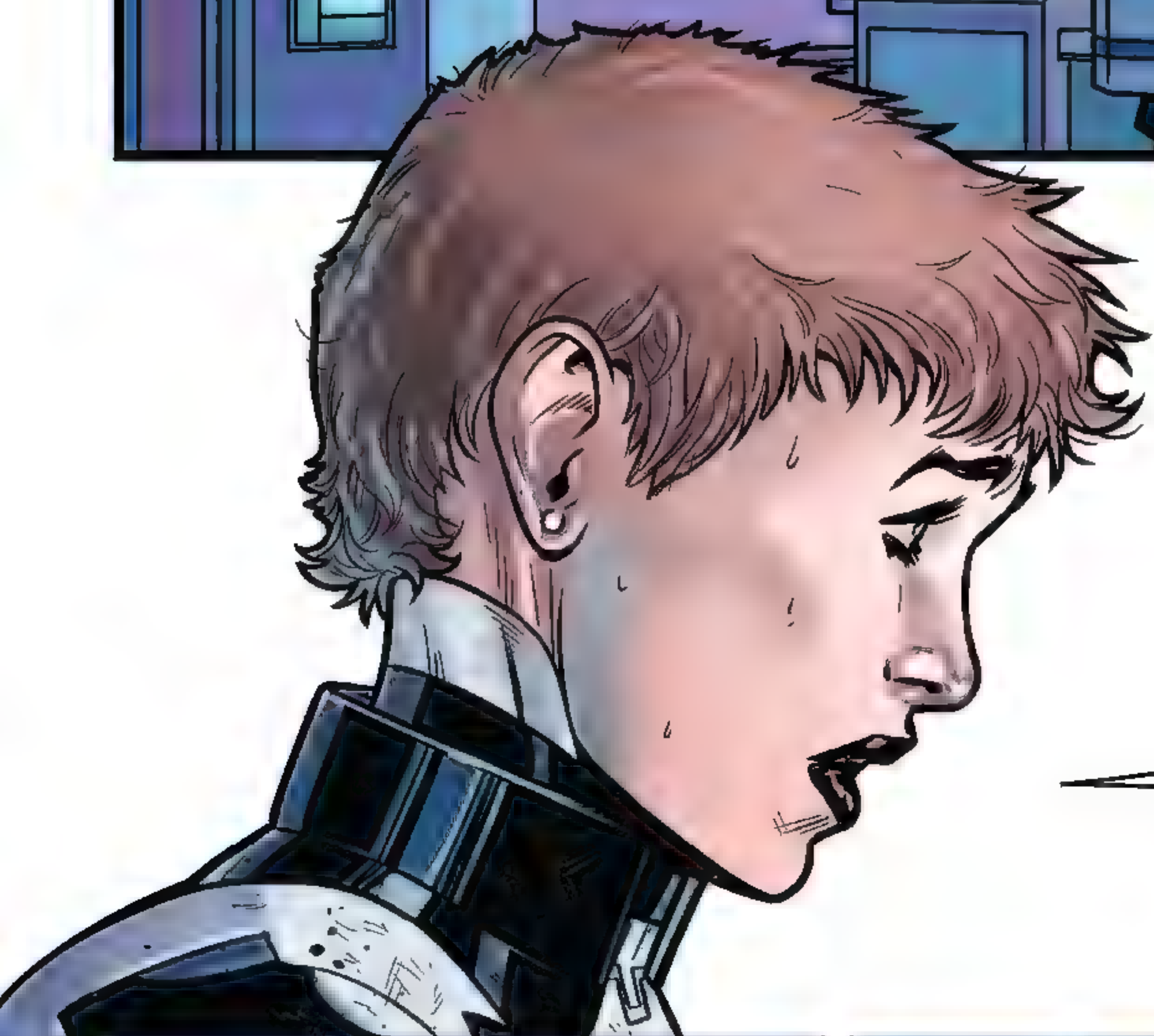
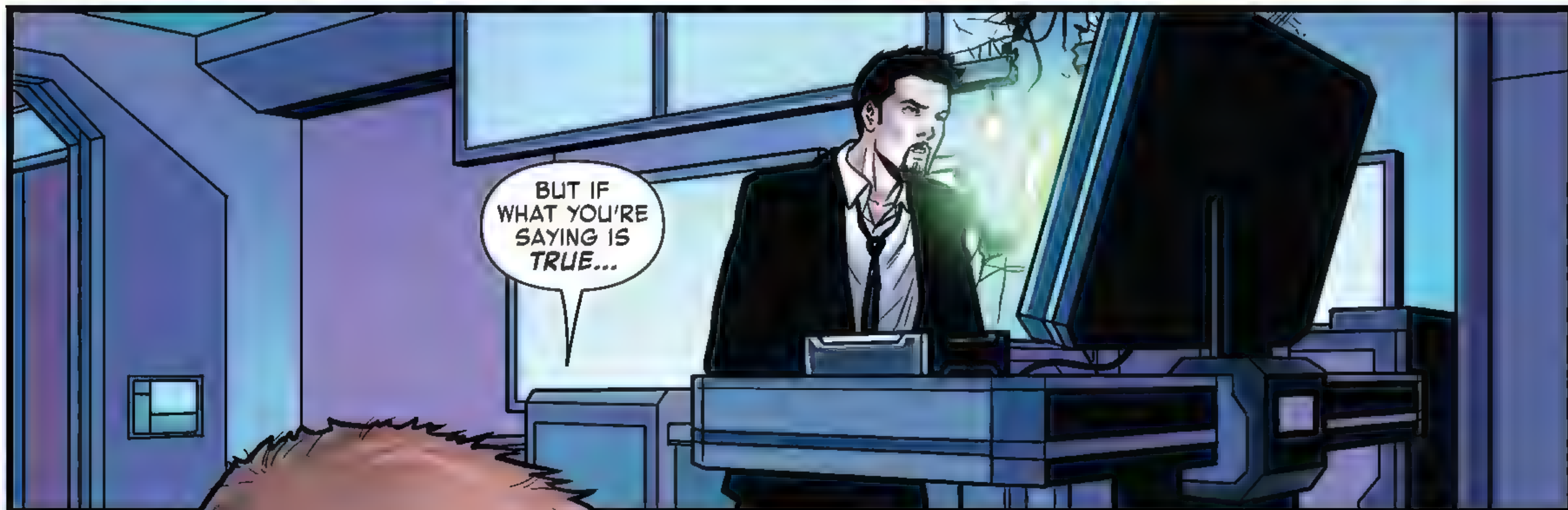
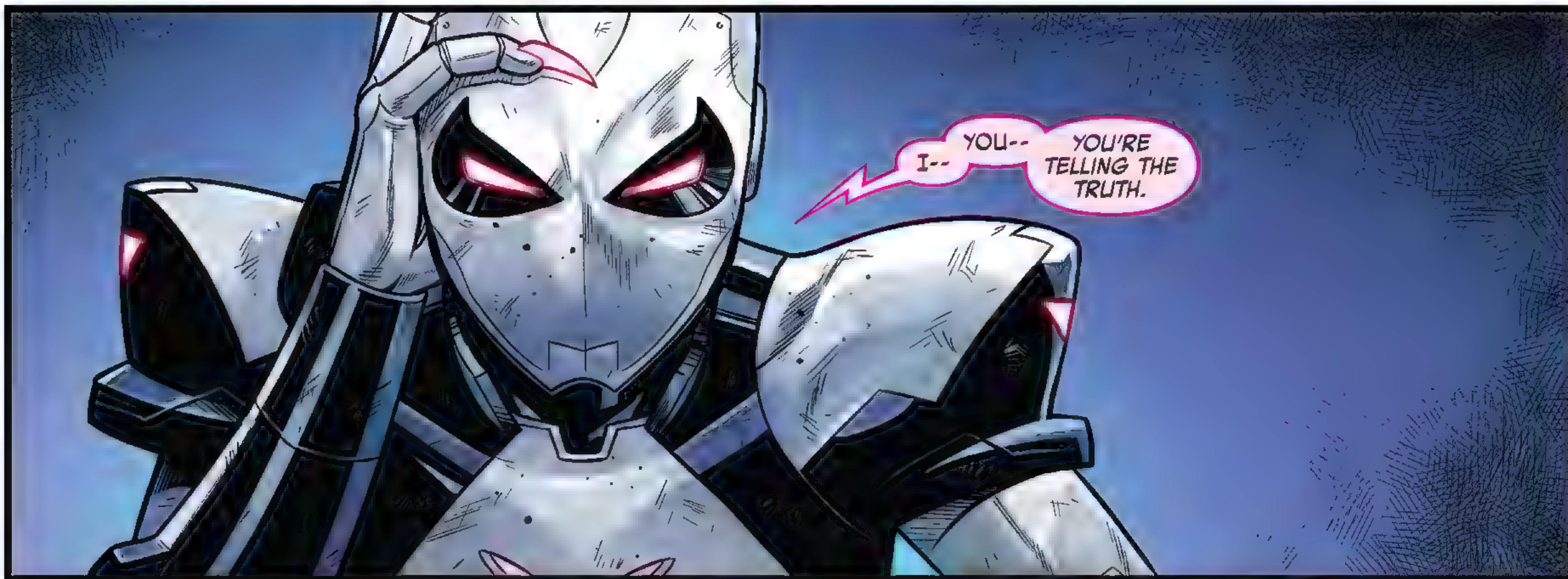
AND I WASN'T GOING TO LET HIM DO SOMETHING THAT MONSTROUS.

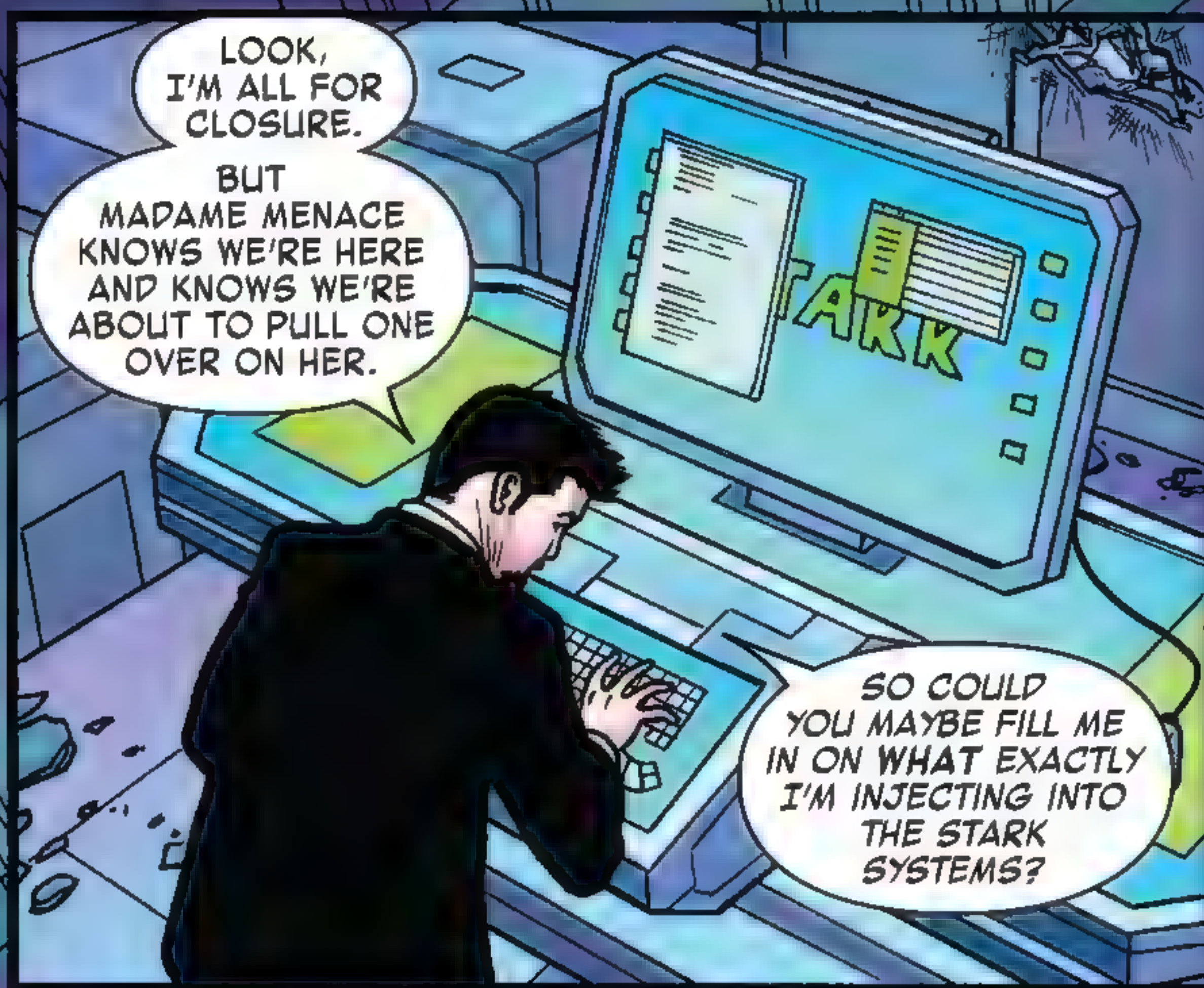


ONLY YOU AND MY MOM CAN TELL WHEN I'M LYING.

SO TELL ME, TAMARA:

AM I LYING?

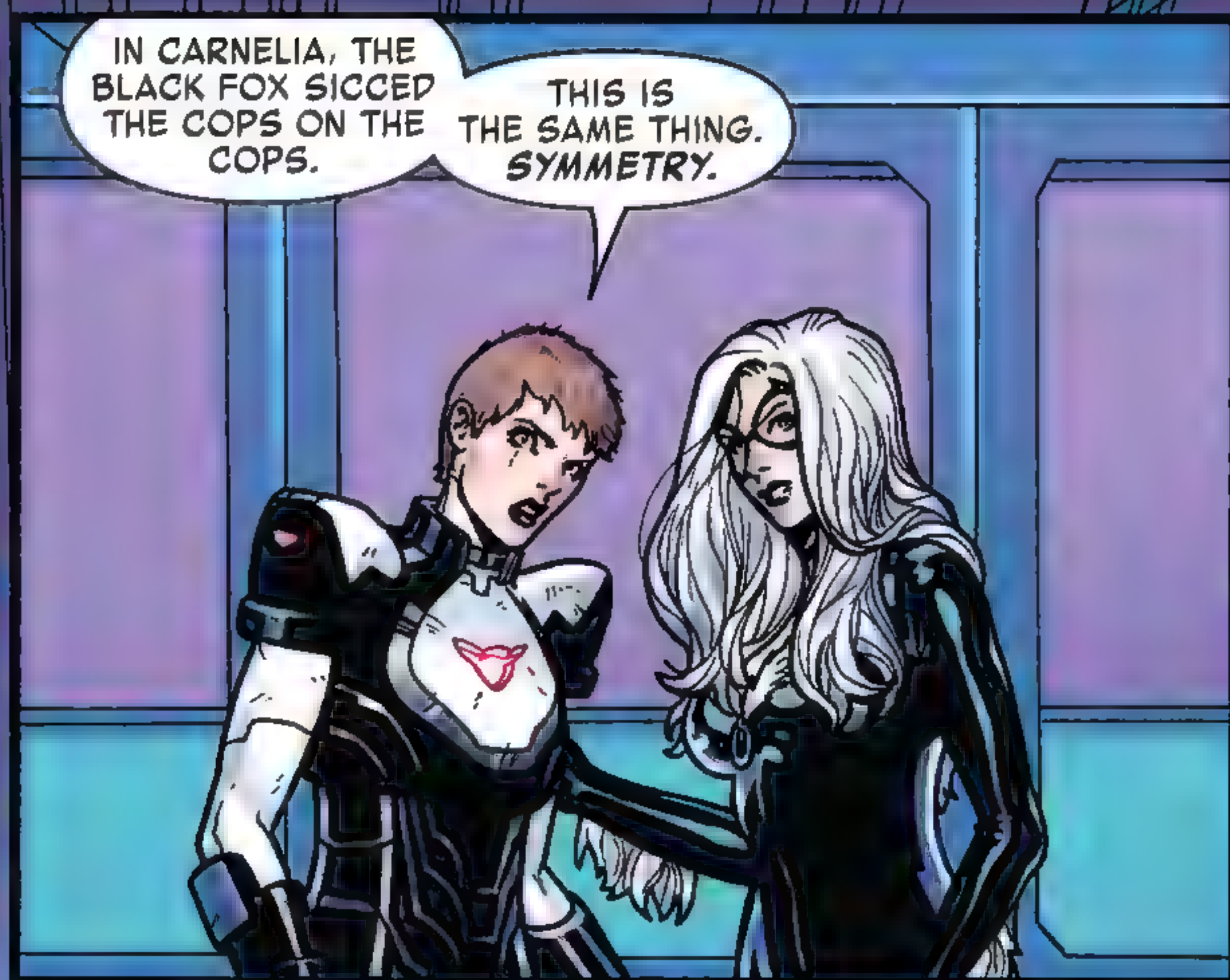




LOOK,
I'M ALL FOR
CLOSURE.

BUT
MADAME MENACE
KNOWS WE'RE HERE
AND KNOWS WE'RE
ABOUT TO PULL ONE
OVER ON HER.

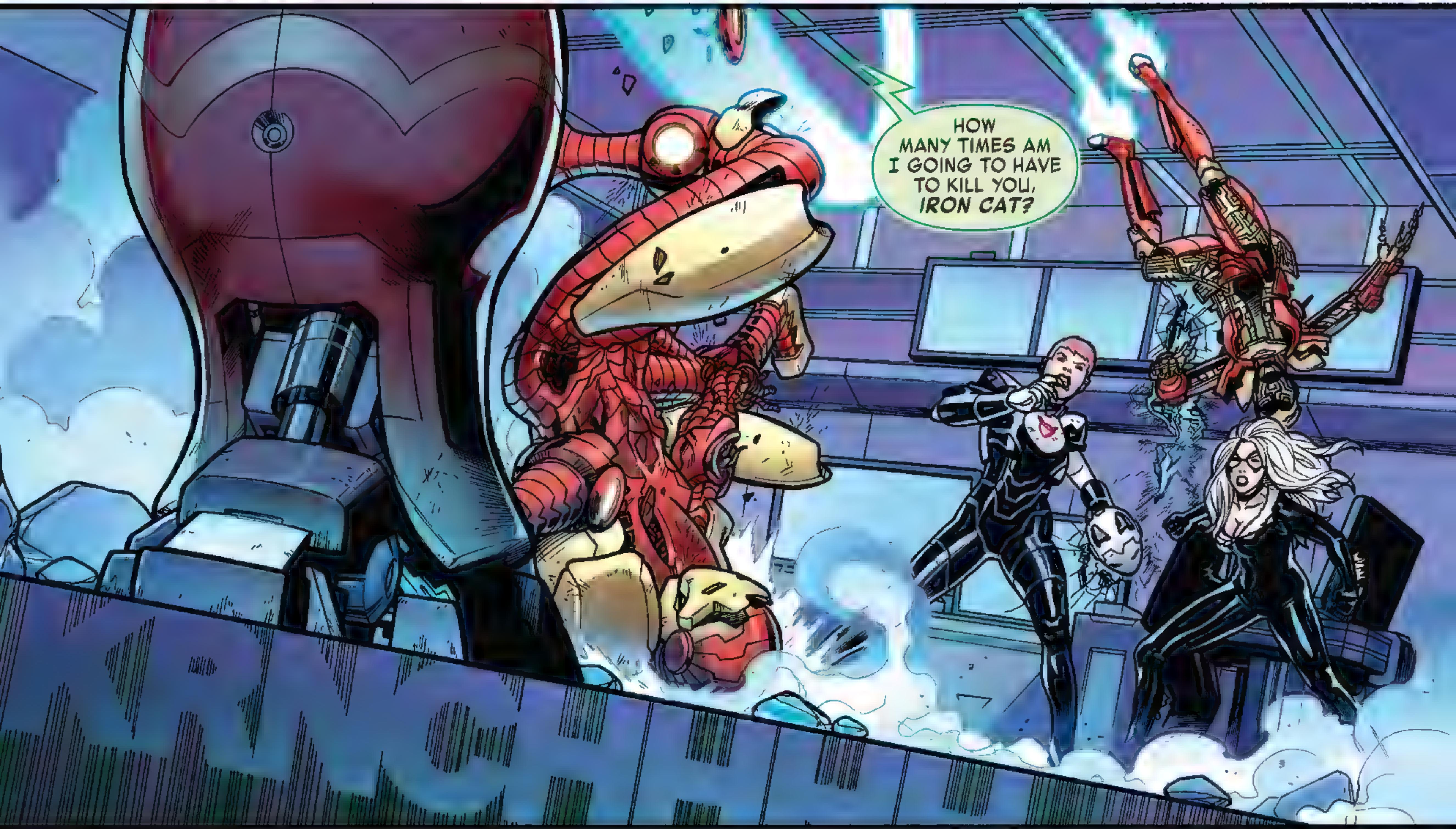
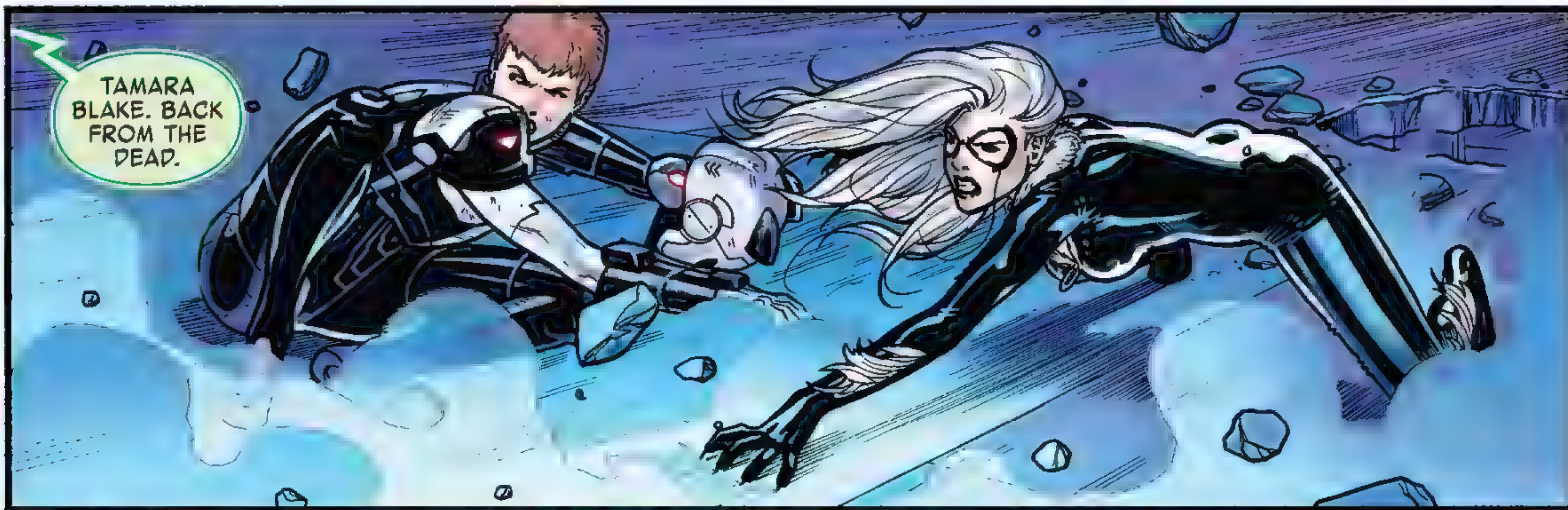
SO COULD
YOU MAYBE FILL ME
IN ON WHAT EXACTLY
I'M INJECTING INTO
THE STARK
SYSTEMS?



IN CARNELIA, THE
BLACK FOX SICKED
THE COPS ON THE
COPS.

THIS IS
THE SAME THING.
SYMMETRY.





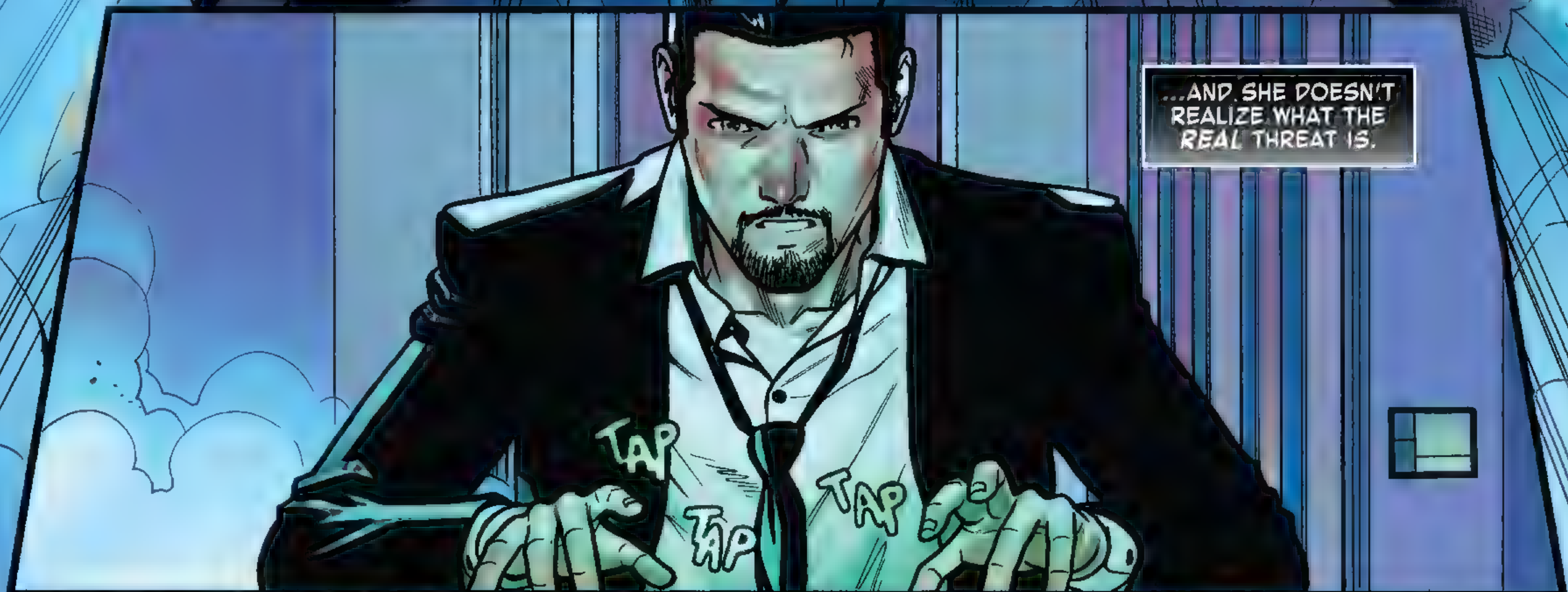


TAMARA AND I,
FIGHTING ISN'T WHAT
WE DO BEST.

WE'RE THIEVES,
AND THIEVES
STEAL.

WHAT WE'RE STEALING
IS MADAME MENACE'S
ATTENTION. HER FOCUS.

STEALING IT SO THAT
ALL SHE CARES ABOUT
IS KILLING US.



...AND SHE DOESN'T
REALIZE WHAT THE
REAL THREAT IS.



WHICH
SHOULDN'T BE
A PROBLEM.

BECAUSE SHE
IS ONE SPITEFUL
PIECE OF CODE.

Recompiling 10%

SHE WANTS TO
KILL US SURE

WE'VE THWARTED
HER, AND SHE
DOESN'T LIKE THAT

BUT MORE THAN THAT,
SHE'S PSYCHOTICALLY
DEVOTED TO HURTING
TONY STARK.

Recompiling 60%

SHE WON'T LET
HIM DIE WHILE
THERE IS *STILL*
PAIN TO INFLICT.

AND KILLING US, TURNING *HIS*
OWN TECH INTO A MURDER
WEAPON. IT JUST DOESN'T
GET A WHOLE LOT BETTER
THAN THAT.

THEN, AND ONLY THEN,
CAN SHE START THINKING
ABOUT KILLING STARK.

SO KEEP SWINGING,
MADAME MENACE.

VAASHH/HHH

BECAUSE WE CAN
DANCE ALL NIGHT
IF WE HAVE TO.

DANCE YOU RIGHT
INTO THE GRAVE.

BOOOOM!!



FELICIA!

UGHHD!

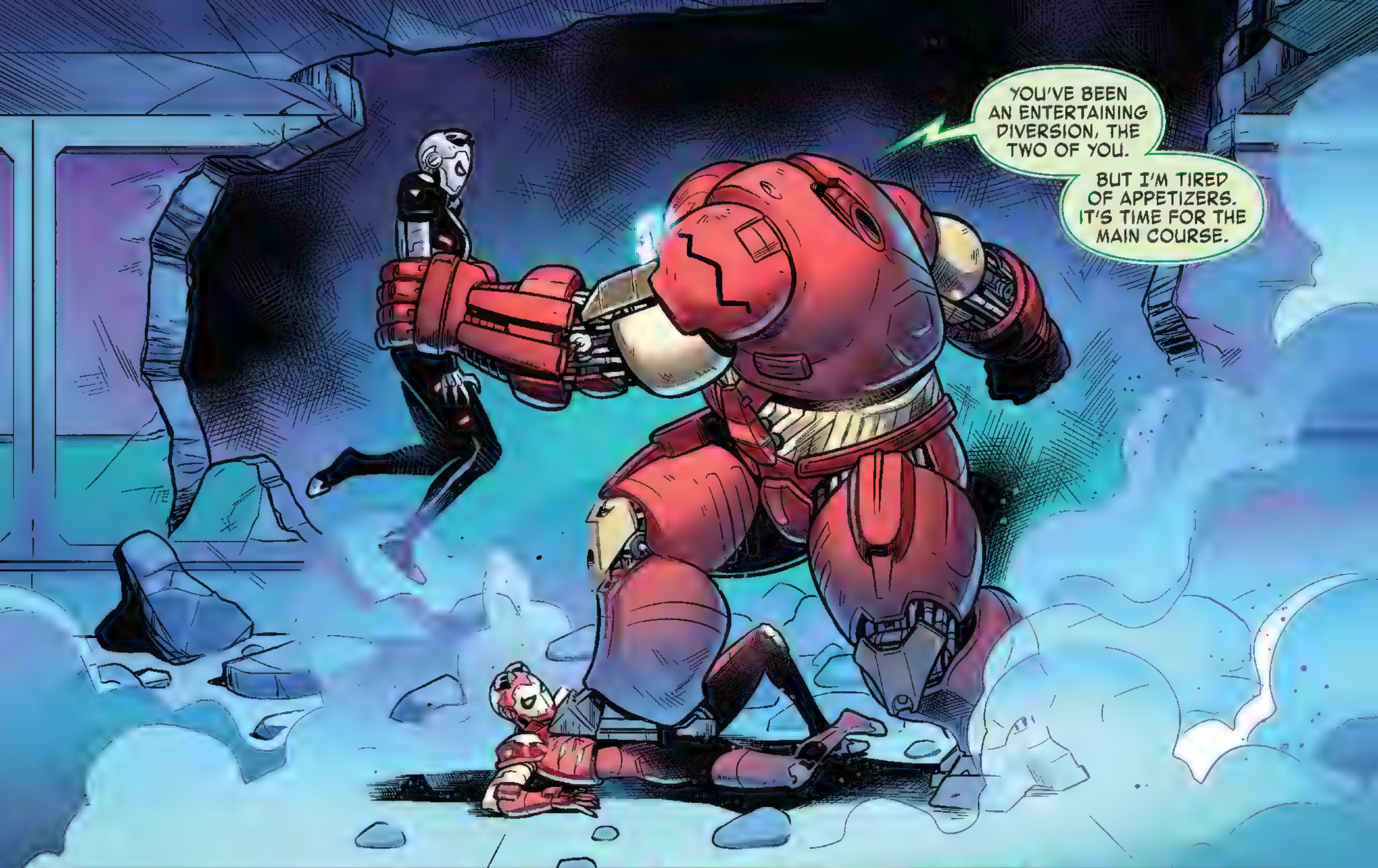


GOT YOU.

NO! TAMARA!

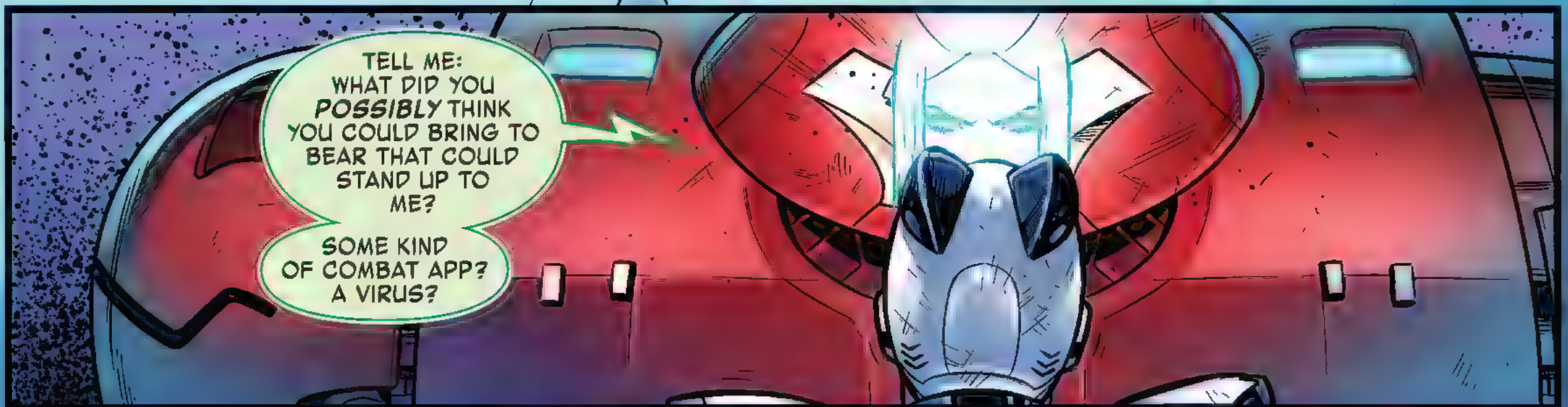
CRUNCH

AAGGH!!



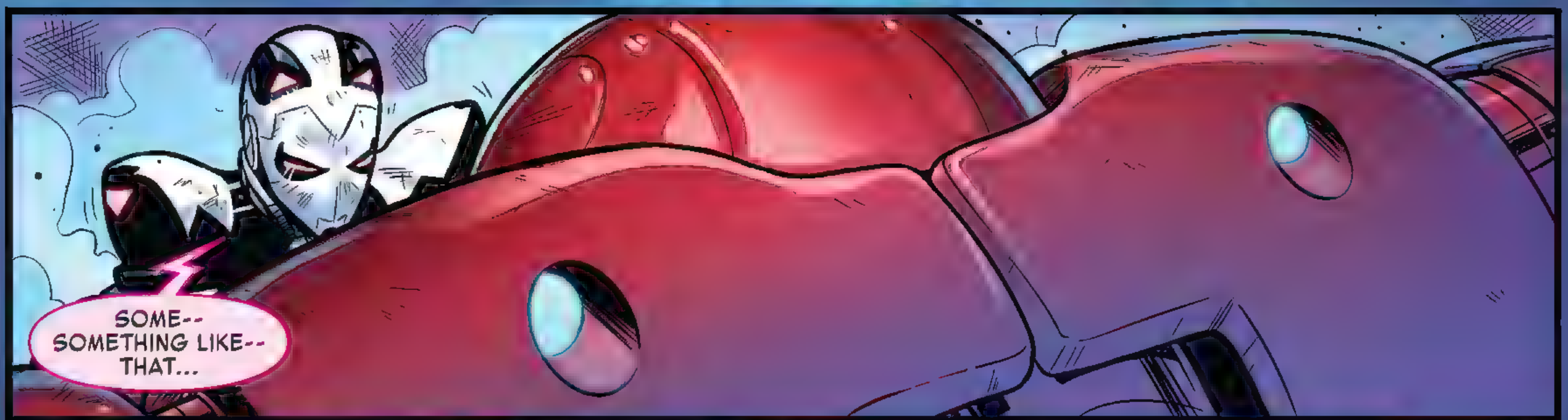
YOU'VE BEEN
AN ENTERTAINING
DIVERSION, THE
TWO OF YOU.

BUT I'M TIRED
OF APPETIZERS.
IT'S TIME FOR THE
MAIN COURSE.



TELL ME:
WHAT DID YOU
POSSIBLY THINK
YOU COULD BRING TO
BEAR THAT COULD
STAND UP TO
ME?

SOME KIND
OF COMBAT APP?
A VIRUS?



SOME--
SOMETHING LIKE--
THAT...

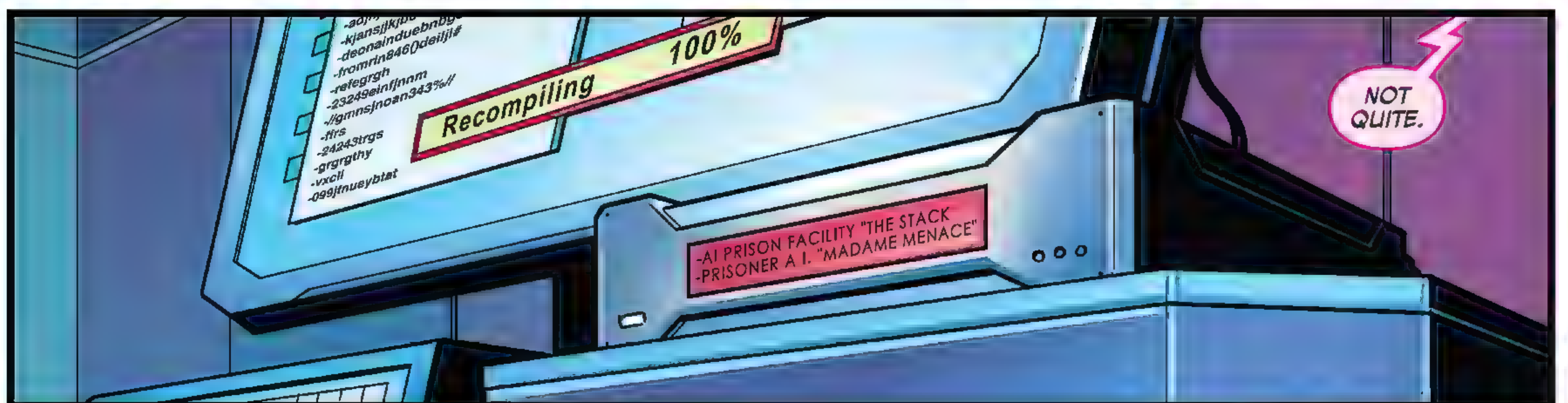
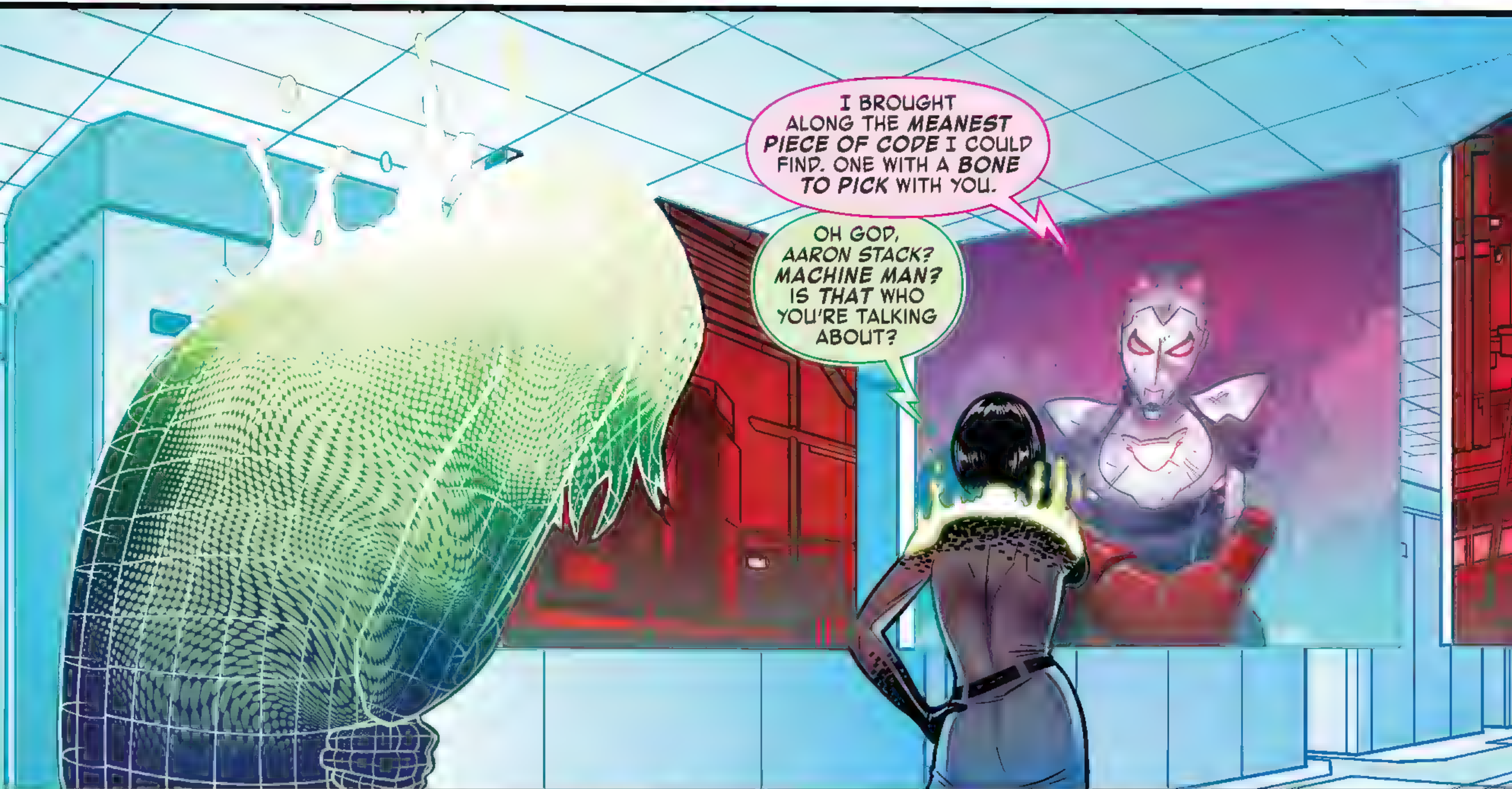


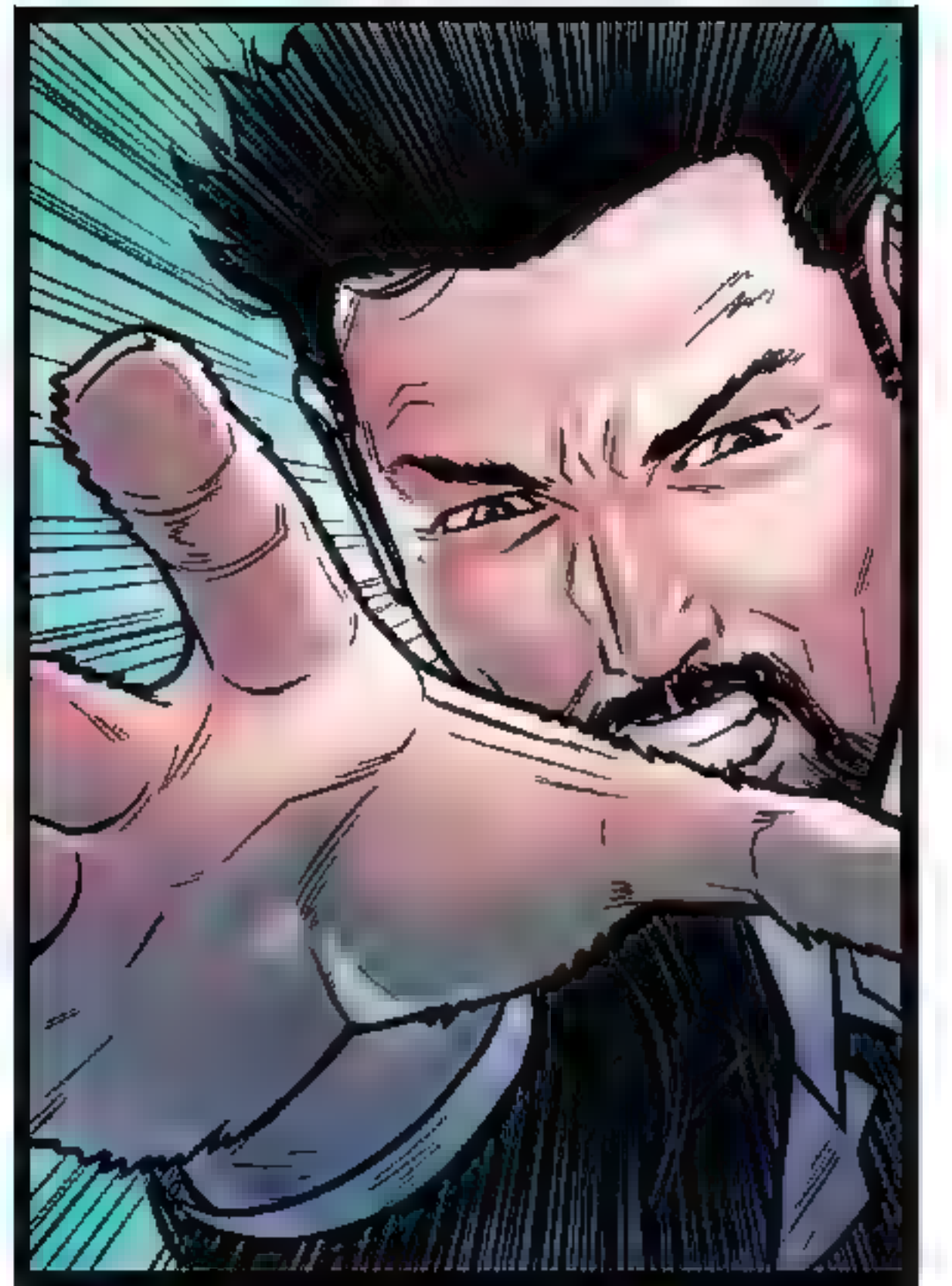
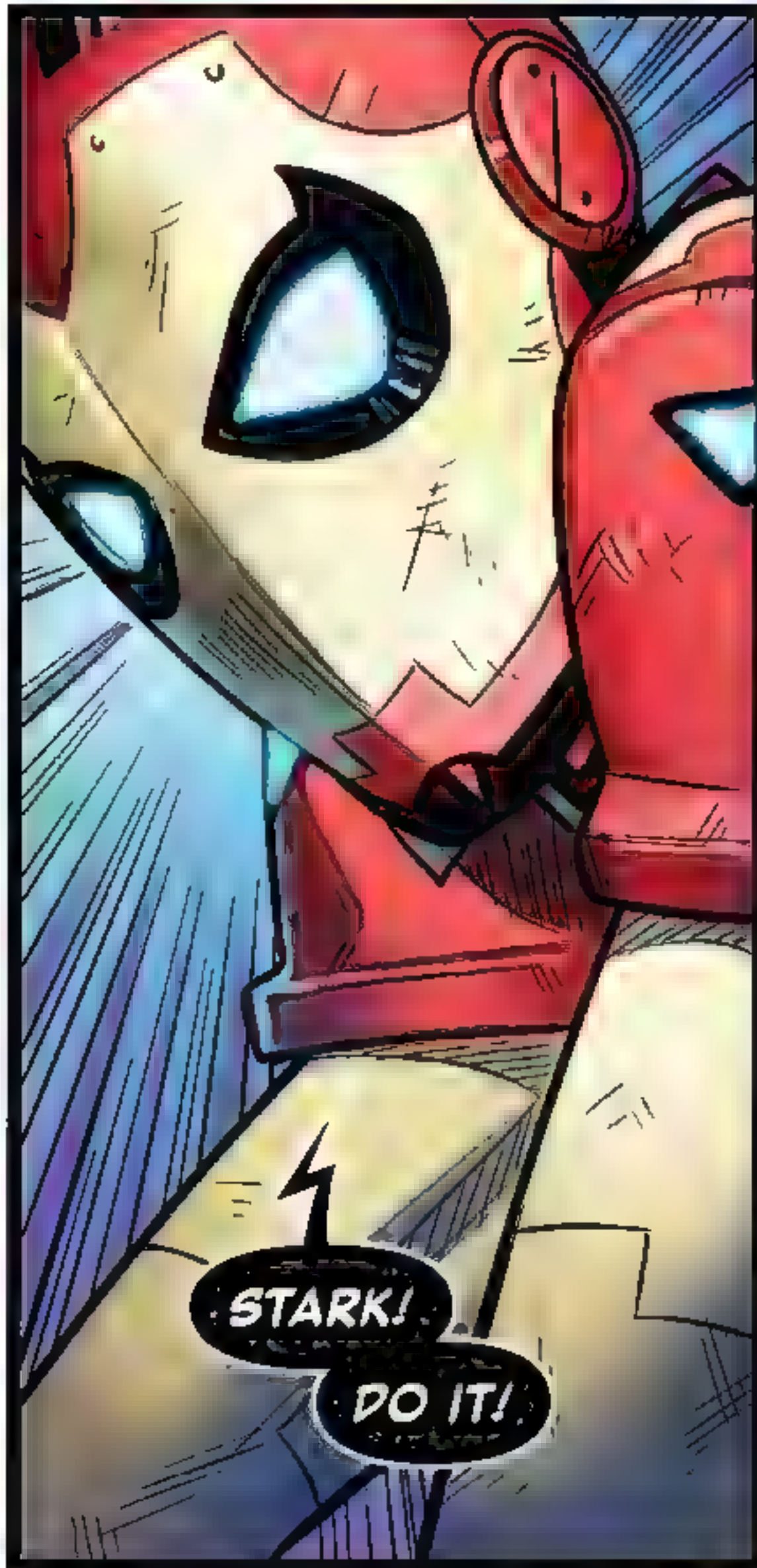
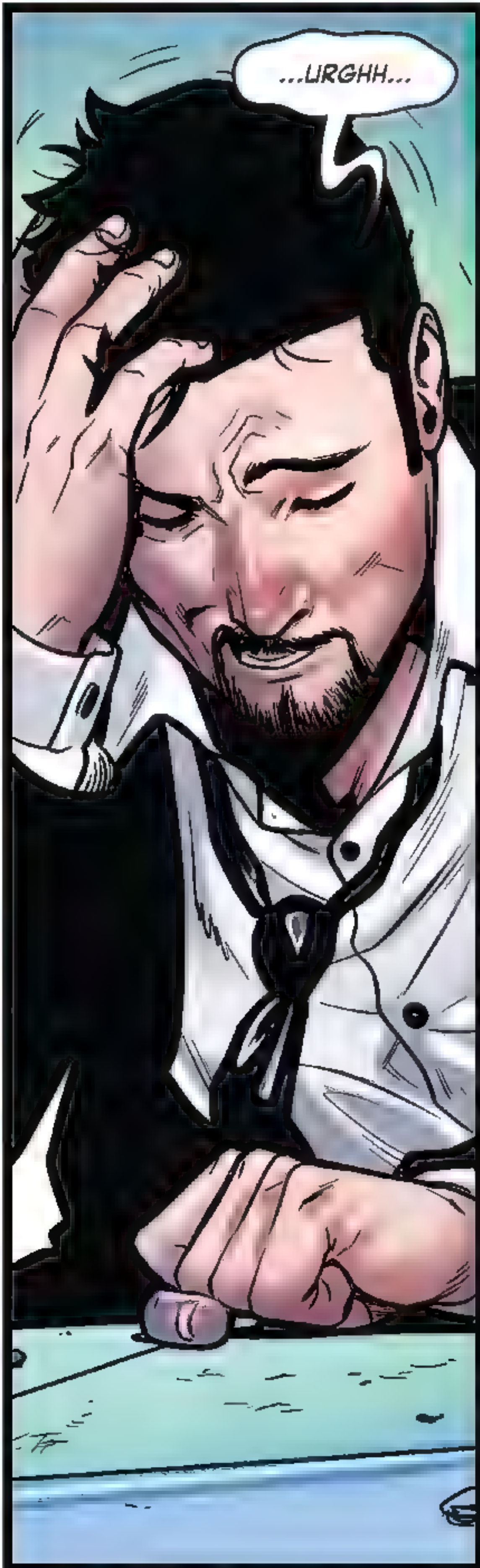
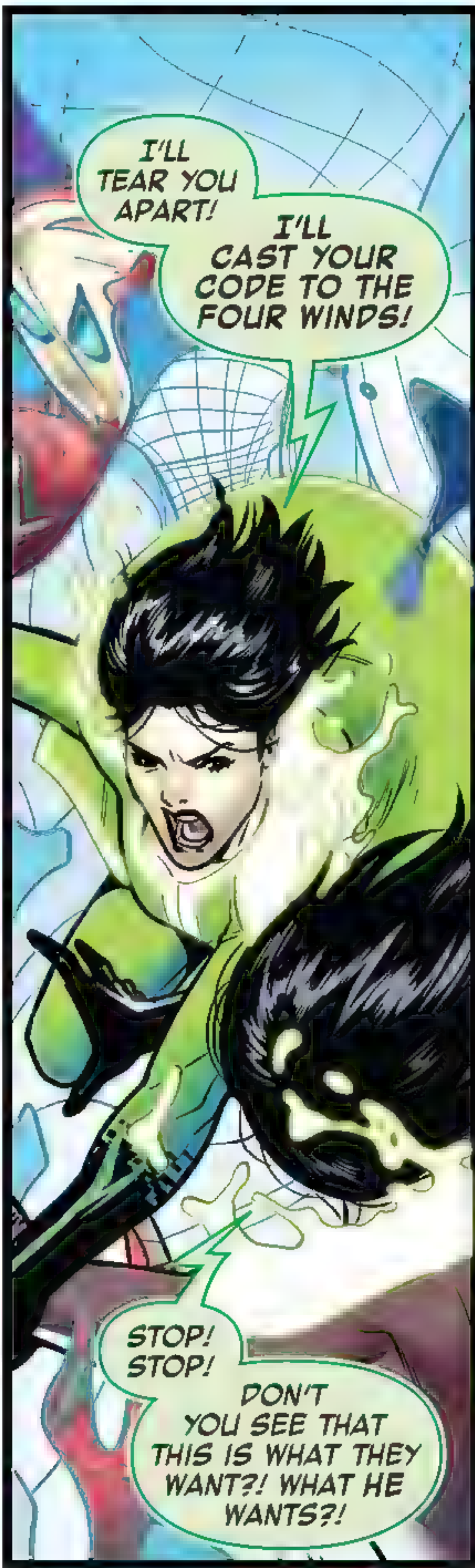
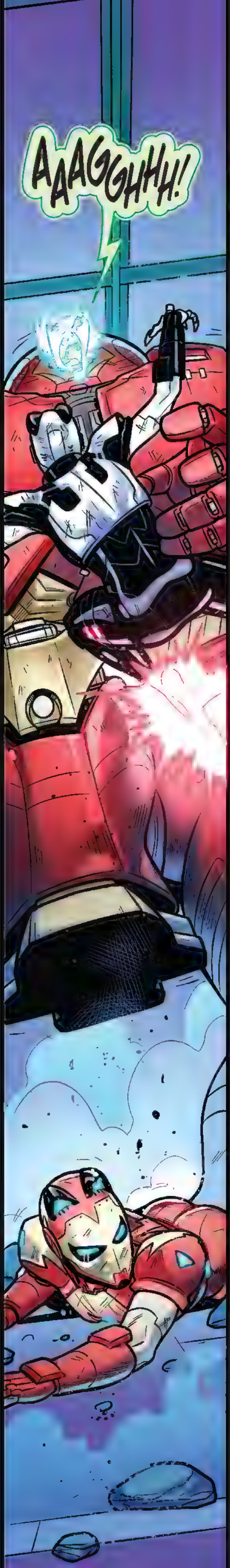
WELL, IT DOESN'T
APPEAR TO HAVE
WORKED.

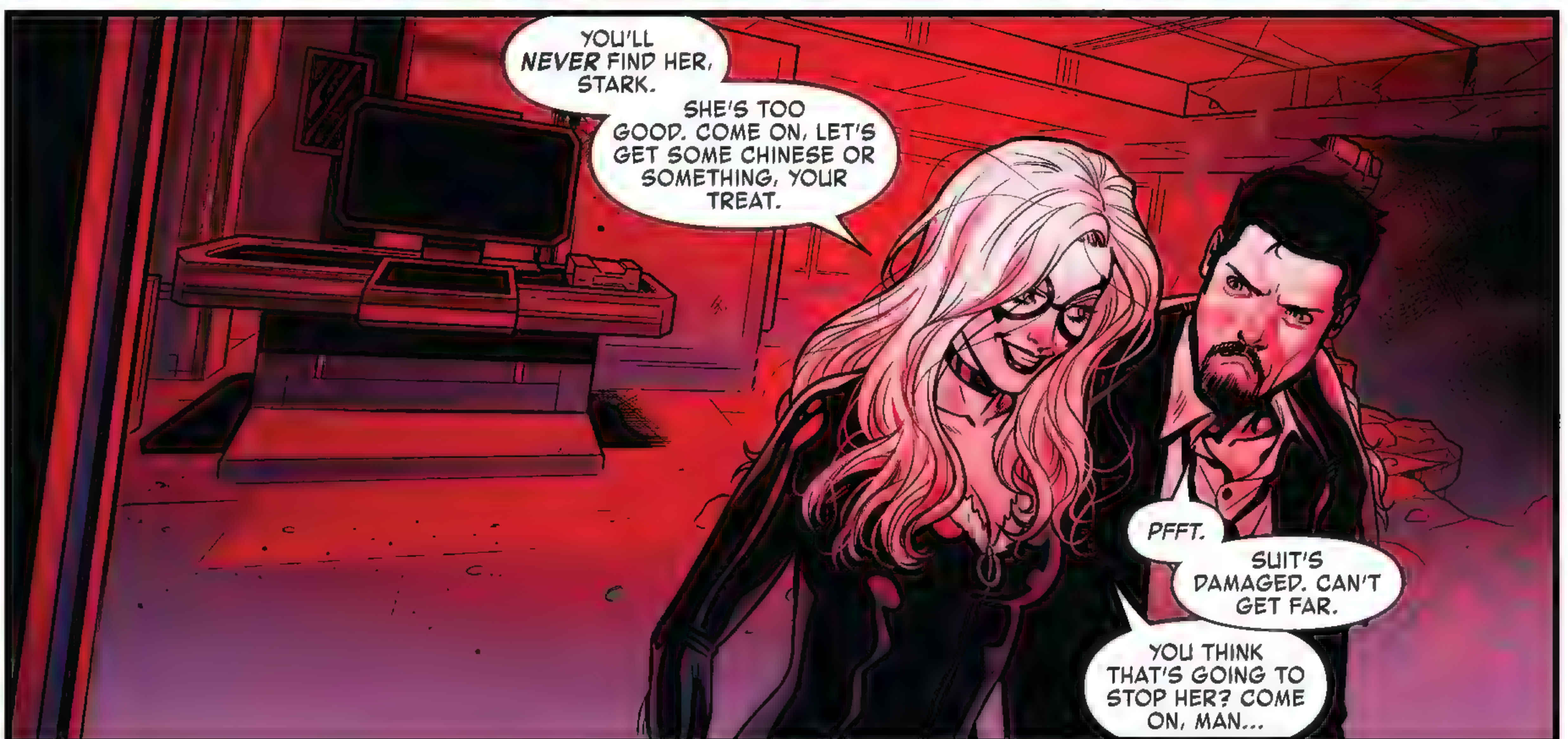
HOW
VERY **SAD,**
TAMARA.

Recompiling

100%







SHORTLY.
THE BLACK-MARKET
SUPER VILLAIN
CHOP SHOP OF
CERES GOLDSTEIN,
NEW JERSEY.

"SHE'S
TAMARA
BLAKE

"SHE'S THE
IRON CAT"

LOOK.

FIXING UP A
STARK SUIT--WITH THE
KIND OF DAMAGE YOU HAVE--
IT'S GOING TO BE
EXPENSIVE.

BUT DAMN,
THAT'LL COVER IT.
WHAT DID YOU SAY
IT WAS AGAIN?

THIS?

IT'S THE
GAVRILOV
DIAMOND.

THE ONE
THAT GOT
AWAY.





RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA
#1 VARIANT



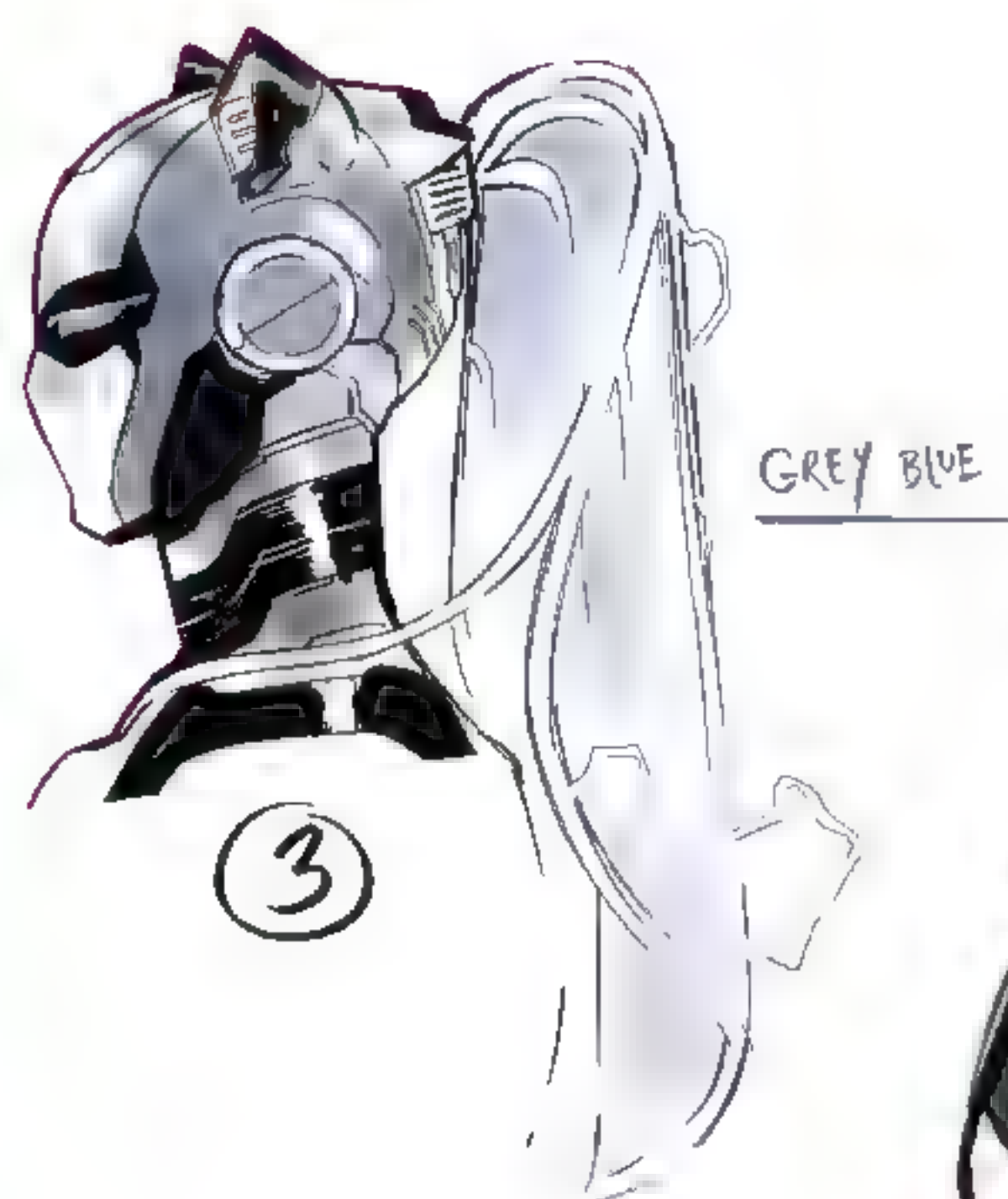
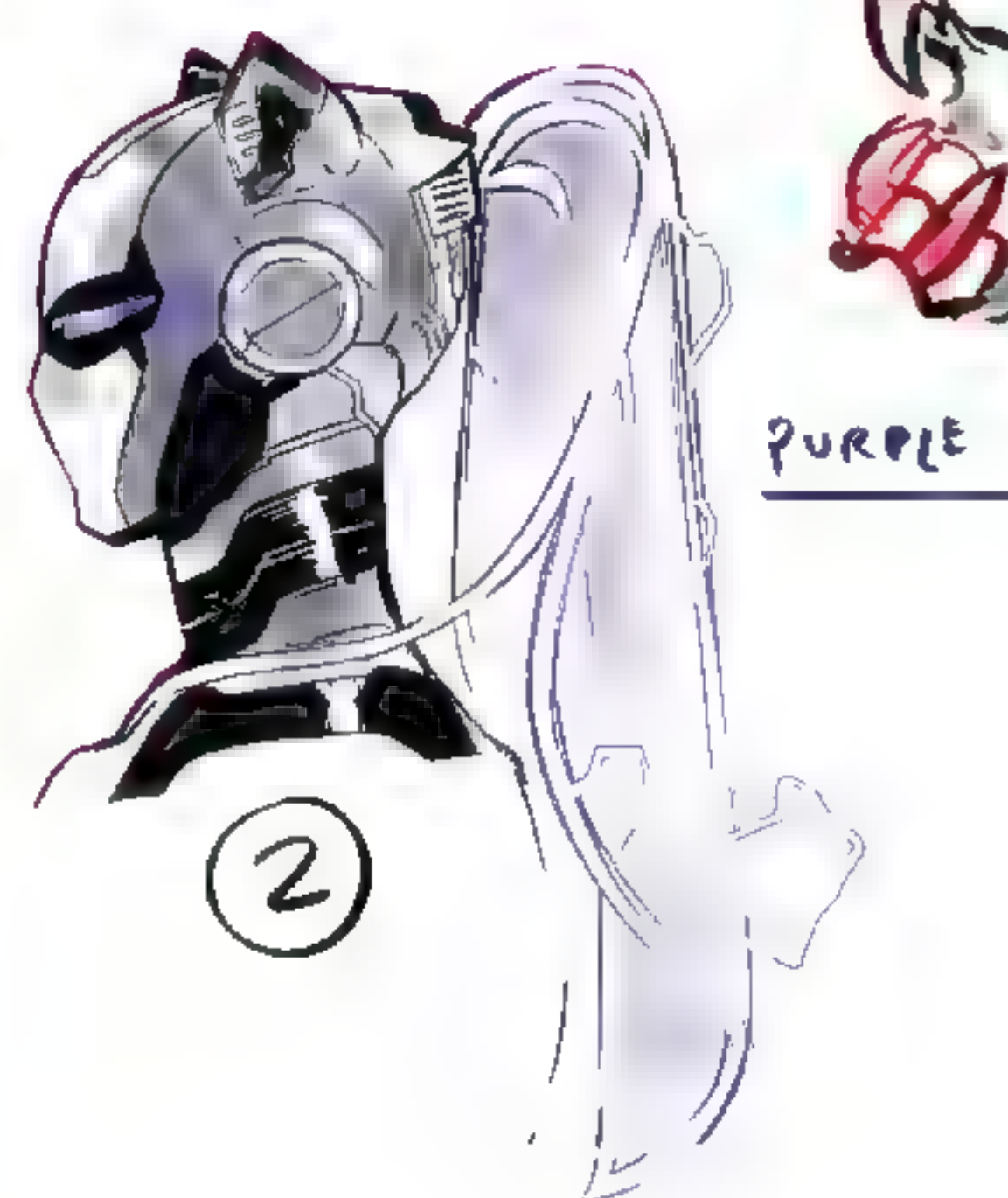
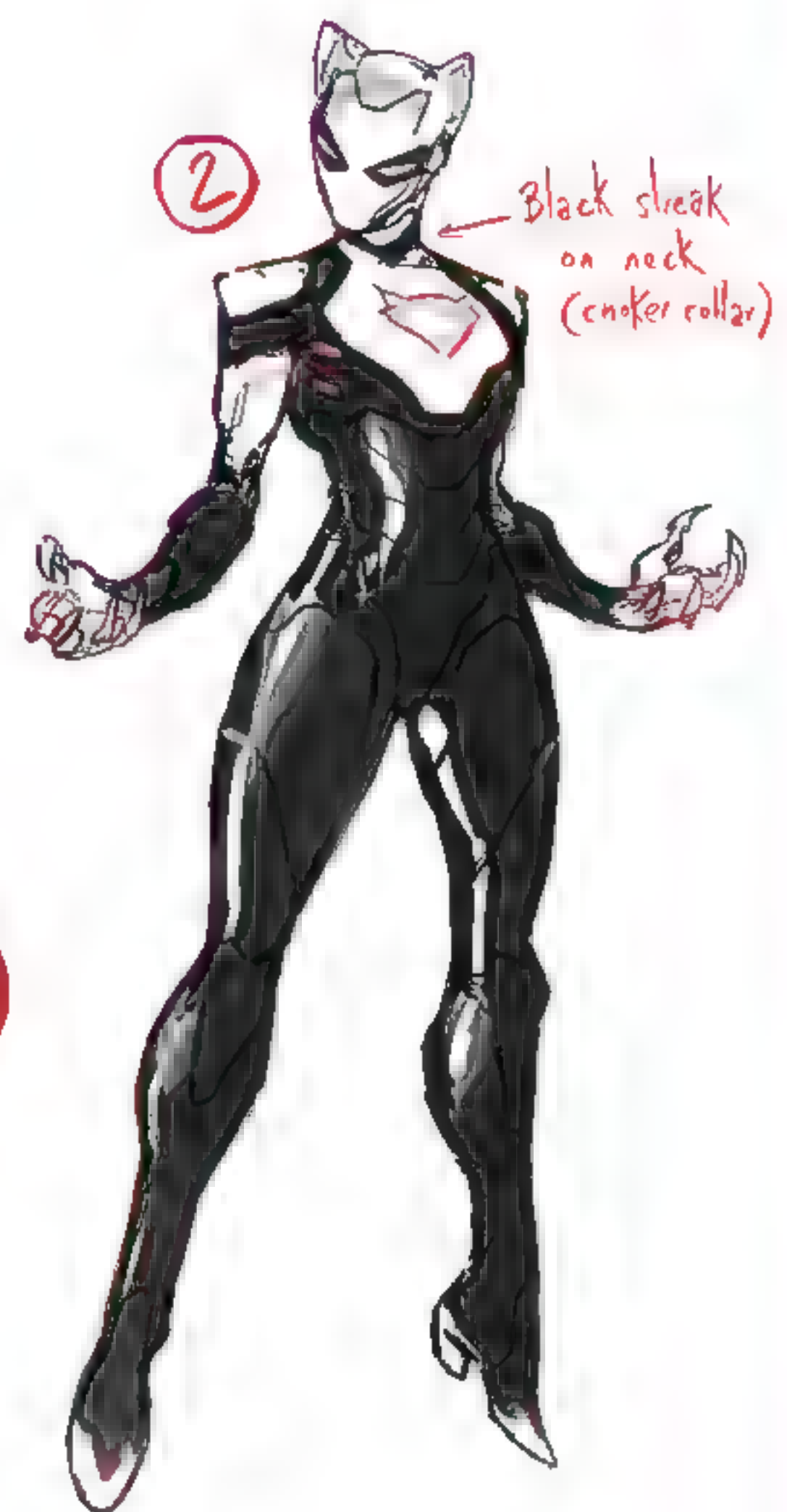
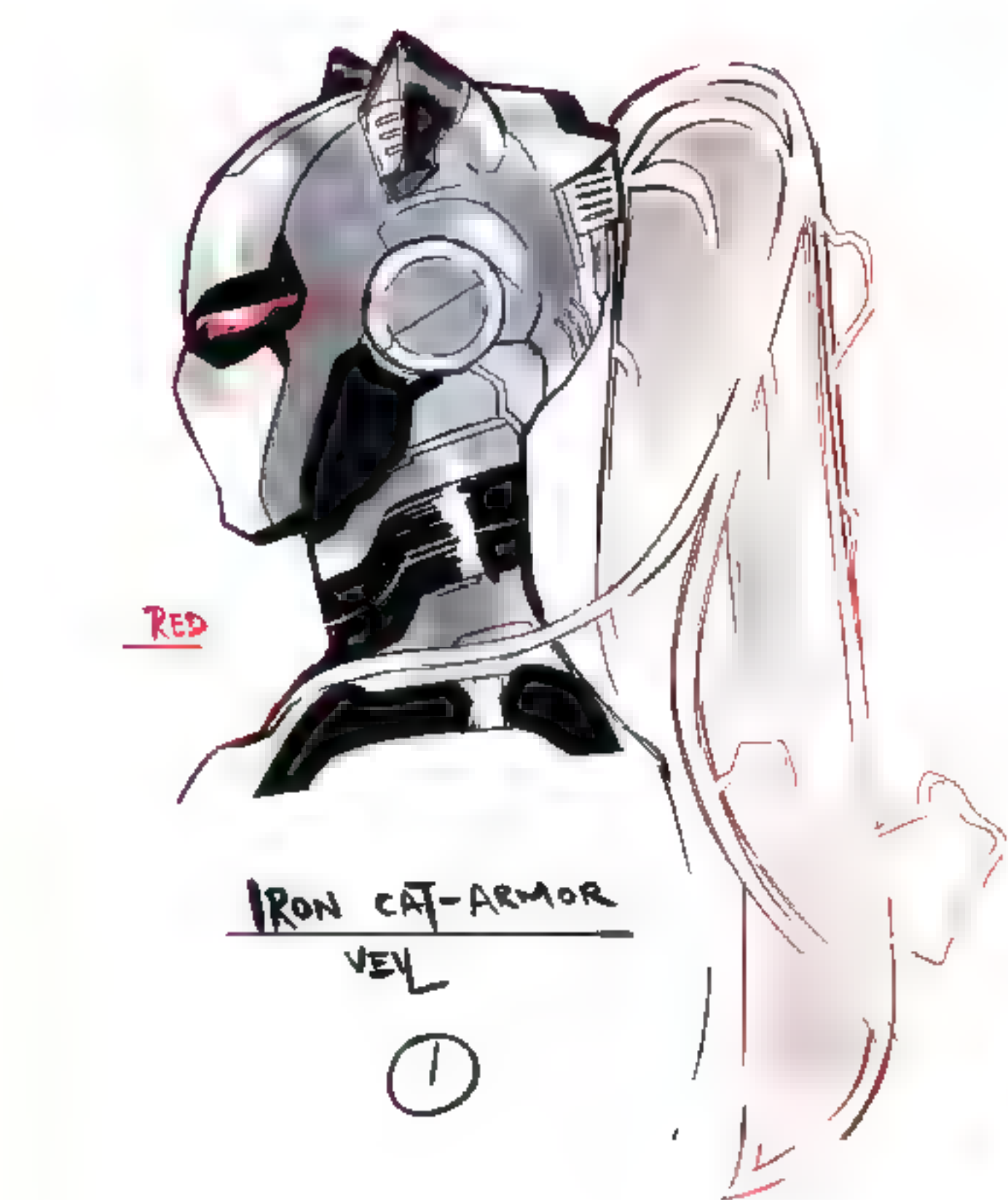
JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER
#1 ACTION FIGURE VARIANT



SKAN
#1 VARIANT



SKOTTIE
YOUNG
2022



IRON CAT ARMOR
villa



KEI ZAMA & RUTH REDMOND
#2 VARIANT



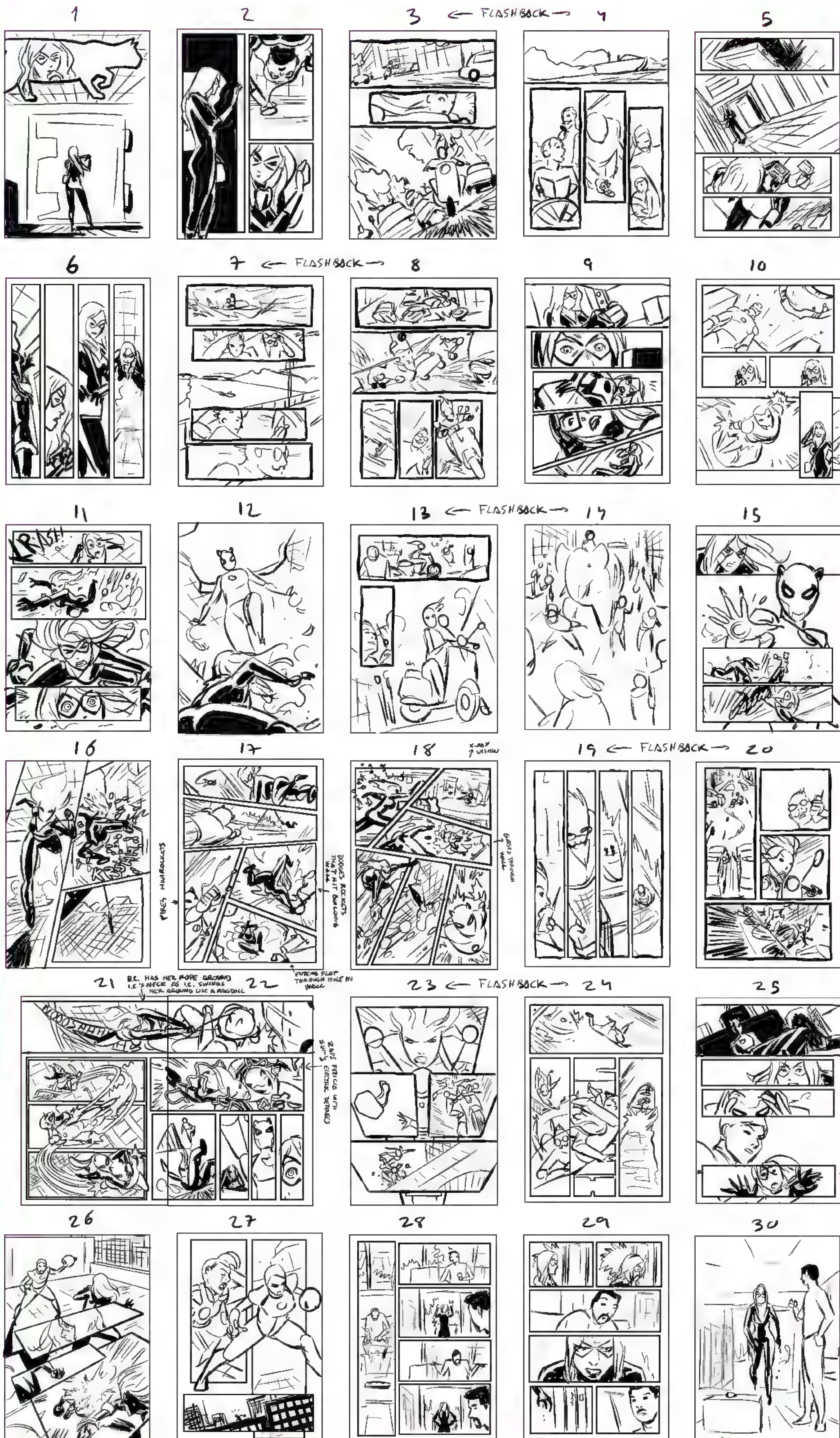
EMA LUPACCHINO & DAVID CURIEL
#3 VARIANT

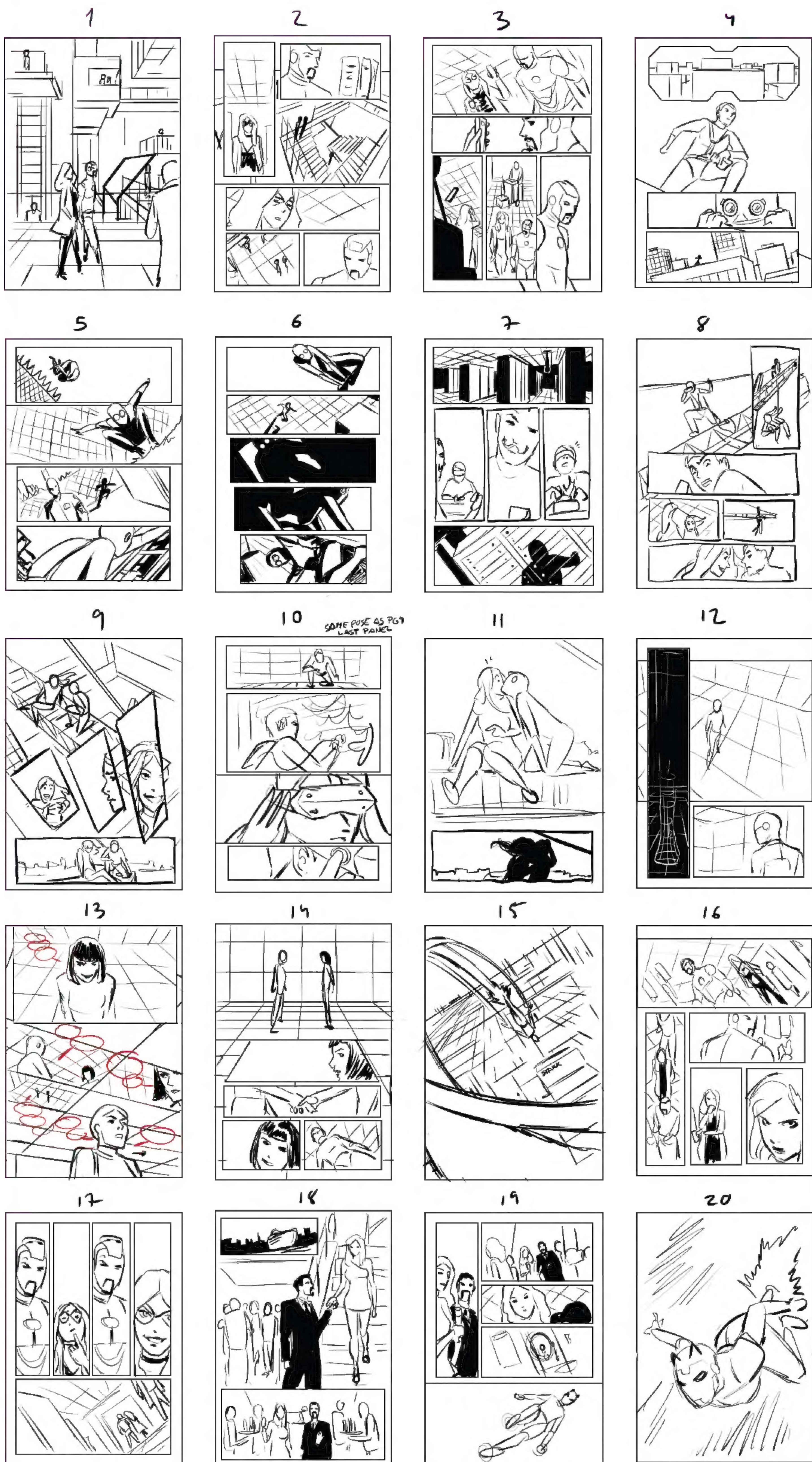


KEI ZAMA & RUTH REDMOND
#4 VARIANT



JUNGGEUN YOON
#5 VARIANT





A



B



C



D

SUSHIES THROUGH
TONY'S ARMOR,
BITS OF IT FLYING



E



F

TONY & SABRETOOTH
FIRE AT IRON CAT



G



B.C. HOLDS I.C.
WITH CABLE

H

MAYBE ADD
TONY IN BG?



I



“Globe-trotting action and heartbreaking romance combine to make Iron Cat a sterling example of good superhero storytelling.” — APT

IRON MAN AND BLACK CAT BOTH THOUGHT THEY’D SEEN
THE LAST OF THE IRON CAT ARMOR!

IF FELICIA HARDY IS SURPRISED TO SEE THE SUIT AGAIN, YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW FURIOUS TONY STARK IS! But there’s someone new in the Iron Cat armor — and this mysterious figure has a plan that will soon put them in the crosshairs of nearly all the heroes in the Marvel Universe! Both Iron Man’s and Black Cat’s secrets and mistakes are about to come back to haunt them! But Tony and Felicia aren’t going to let this new Iron Cat have all the fun. Tony has done his own fresh spin on the feline armor, and Felicia may like some of his innovations!



Jack T. Ripper

BLOODY MARVELOUS!

